FIGHT OF THE CENTURY

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THE FALLOUT

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"I KNEW I HAD HIM IN THE FIRST ROUND. I ALWAYS KNEW I WAS THE SMARTER FIGHTER." — FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

GOOD
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The RING
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It's no wonder that Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao were so pleased after their fight on May 2: They both made a fortune.

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A LOOK BACK 100 YEARS AFTER THE FIGHT
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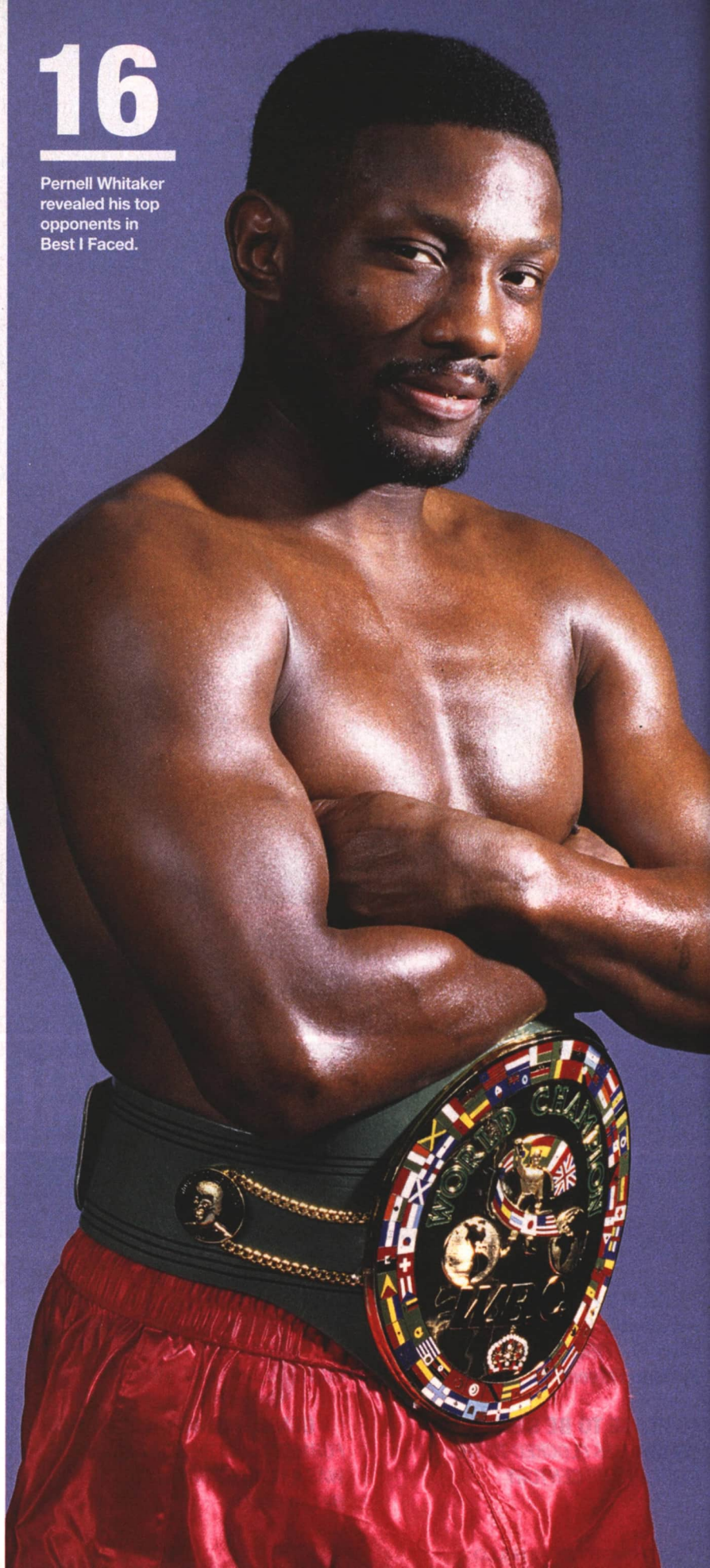

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Pernell Whitaker revealed his top opponents in Best I Faced.

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WHAT A MESS

Who could've imagined that Manny Pacquiao would emerge as the bad guy in the Fight of the Century? And make no mistake: He did.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. is nowhere near an angel, as his domestic abuse convictions make clear. And his fighting style is about as exciting as a plumbing manual, which rendered his one-sided victory on May 2 a terrible bore.

"Money" was true to who he is, though, a hit-and-not-be-hit wizard who does nothing but win and collect monumental paydays. That includes an incomprehensible $200 million or more against Pacquiao.

Pacquiao did his best to solve Mayweather's defensive riddles but failed. He wasn't at fault – until he opened his mouth at the post-fight news conference.

It was there, in the arena where he had just lost, that Pacquiao revealed he had entered the fight with a tear in his right rotator cuff (shoulder). And it was downhill from there.

Bob Arum, Pacquiao's promoter, said the Nevada State Athletic Commission was aware of the injury days before the fight. The NSAC chairman said minutes later that he didn't know until a few hours before the fight. Then it turns out that Pacquiao (or whoever filled out the form) checked "no" when asked on a pre-fight medical questionnaire whether he had a shoulder injury.

As a result of their failure to disclose the injury, Pacquiao and his handlers face suspensions and fines – if not perjury charges. This is serious stuff.

Now, to be fair, I understand why Pacquiao felt he could not reveal the injury if he planned to go through with the fight. If he had done so, Mayweather would've tailored his strategy to a one-armed foe and won even more easily.

And I understand something else: Had Pacquiao and Co. postponed the fight, something they say they considered, the fight might've fallen apart completely and he wouldn't have received his payday of roughly $100 million.

Clearly, Pacquiao was in a tough position.

That simply doesn't justify hiding the injury or lying on a questionnaire required by the body that regulates boxing in Nevada, if that's what happened. Fans who paid as much $100 to watch the fight on TV and those who bet on the fight feel they were duped. And who could blame them?

In fact, as I write this, many class-action lawsuits had been filed against Pacquiao and Co. alleging fraud. That's how ridiculous this has become.

Pacquiao should've done the right thing, which would've been to disclose the injury – regardless of how Mayweather might've adjusted to his strategy – or postpone it even if that meant risking the windfall he received in spite of his apparent deception.

All in all, it was a horrible night for boxing. Mayweather fought well but the utter lack of drama in the fight and the revelation of Pacquiao's injury and what followed turned the Fight of the Century into the Slight of the Century.

And they're talking about a rematch. (Sigh.)

The RING

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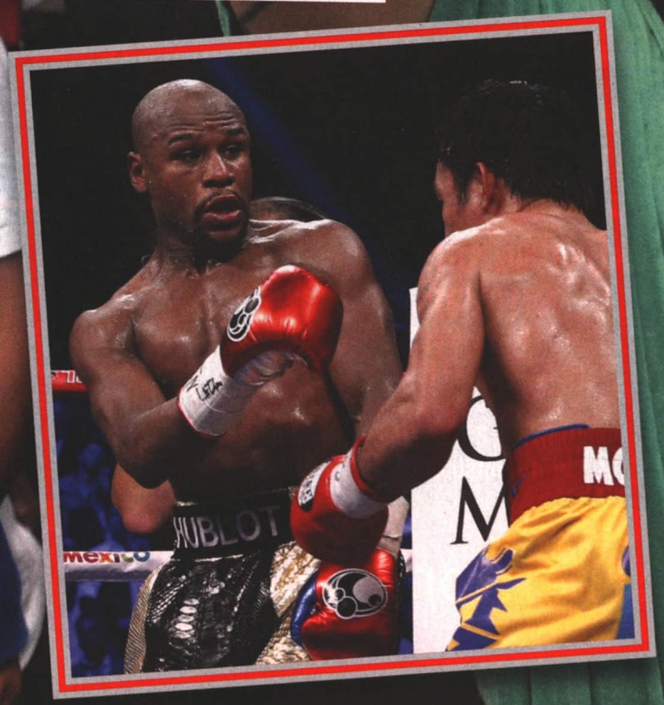
Emotionally invested Filipinos gathered to watch the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Manny Pacquiao fight on a large screen at a plaza in suburban Manila. They didn't leave happy.



FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. VS. MANNY PACQUIAO

Floyd does not change his style to please people; it's just not how he is. ... Manny played Floyd's game and lost at it, plain and simple. No amount of sour-graping or excuses will change that.

Patrick Taylor
Manila, Philippines

Mayweather has perfected a difficult style of fighting and made it look easy. He fights in a way that opponents don't know they've been in a fight and viewers don't know they've watched a fight.

Greg Rowe
Denver

This fight generated so much attention from non-boxing fans, the opportunity was there to create a whole new wave of fight fans. Instead, we have people who will probably never watch another boxing match again, people who didn't get why there was so much hype for such an underwhelming event. Can we blame them?

Dave Butler
Dublin, Ireland

The boxer beat the fighter. Good for boxing.

Helge Eriksen
Harstad, Norway

Fight of the century? It wasn't even fight of the week.

Abid Ali
London

I feel sorry for Mayweather. It was a defining moment in his career and sure to be a cornerstone of his legacy and he gets booed. Why? He's a victim of his own persona, a persona he had to create in order to be successful. Irony at its finest. And so many people had opinions on this bout, so many who do not understand the subtlety of what he does best and hate a man for being the best out there at this moment. Is it his fault he knows getting hit is the wrong approach?

Richard Downie
Manchester, U.K.

Boxing is about risk and passion and the human spirit, not necessarily about winning. It's about two men (or women) creating something together that transcends things like science and logic. Instead, we saw a man who cares more about getting the win than how he wins. Mayweather isn't a boxer. He's a businessman who boxes.

Christopher Wagner
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

The debate is over. Floyd Mayweather Jr. is the best fighter of his generation.

Steve Lennart
Warrenville, Ill.

If two opponents can spend 36 minutes in a ring punching each other and walk out without either guy having a mark on their face ... something is seriously wrong. They don't deserve a check for over $100 million! S--t, they don't even deserve applause.

George Pavlou
Brisbane, Australia

The fight was never going to please the casual fan but as a boxing fan who appreciates the technical side Mayweather is arguably the best defensive fighter of all time.

Daniel Lloyd Ferlance
London

Every moment Pacquiao had Mayweather cornered I screamed at the television, "THAT'S YOUR MOMENT!" Those were the moments to let your hands go. You can't hit him with a clear shot? Did he block every one of your punches? Tough s--t! Hit any part of Mayweather he chooses to put in front of you. Fight with the mentality that you want every bone and muscle in Mayweather's body to ache after stepping in the ring with you. Instead, I saw the two hug it out like old friends from high school and it was at that moment, I realized, what a disappointment.

Kevin Wolff
Huntington Beach, Calif.

As I sat there with bags forming under my eyes, slowly stirring my coffee, I felt like many people who paid for the PPV – an idiot! An idiot for buying into the hype, an idiot to think this form of Manny that struggled with boxers in his prime could handle the best boxer of our generation, an idiot for buying into all of Roach's talks of a KO or winning rounds. I had an image of Money Mayweather packing his Louis Vuitton bags with hundred dollar bills, gaudy diamond-encrusted watches and even gaudier sunglasses, getting on his plane full of strippers and "friends" and just stopping on the threshold and looking back out onto the world and thinking, "I got you suckers."

Muhammed Ashraf
London

[Mayweather's] next fight? Who cares? There's nobody left to challenge him. Just cut him a check and save everybody the hassle.

Mark Sand
Alpharetta, Ga.

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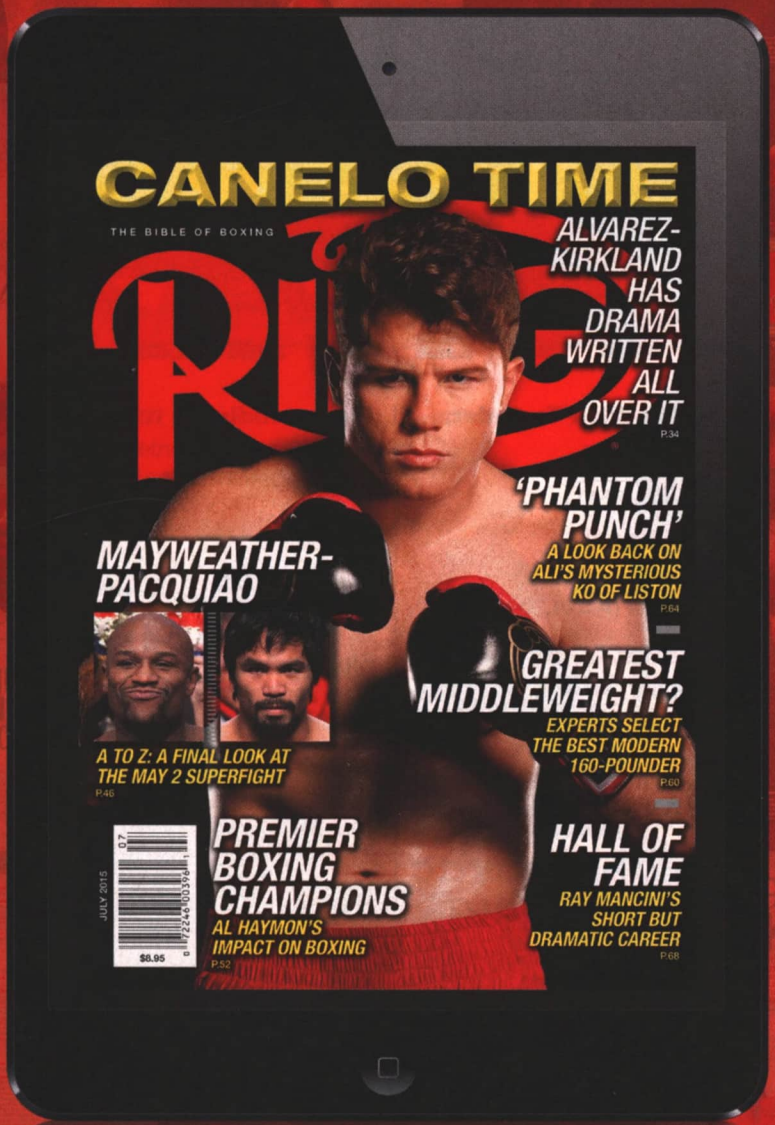

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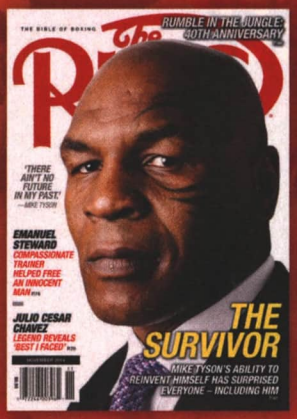

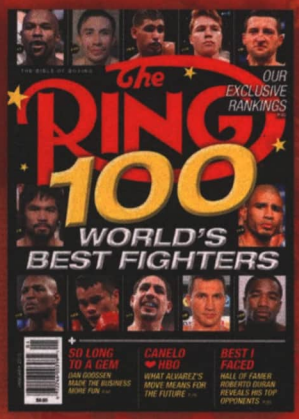

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ADVANCED DEGREES

Degrees of separation between fighters of the past and their more contemporary counterparts. This month, courtesy of reader Brian Naasz, we link onetime title contender Lenny Mancini with International Boxing Hall of Fame electee Ray Mancini, who happens to be Lenny's son.

Ray Mancini is pictured with his dad and mom.

LENNY MANCINI FOUGHT …

ROCKY CASTELLANI, WHO FOUGHT …

SUGAR RAY ROBINSON, WHO FOUGHT …

JOEY ARCHER, WHO FOUGHT …

EMILE GRIFFITH, WHO FOUGHT …

VITO ANTUOFERMO, WHO FOUGHT …

MARVIN HAGLER, WHO FOUGHT …

SUGAR RAY LEONARD, WHO FOUGHT …

HECTOR CAMACHO, WHO FOUGHT …

« **RAY MANCINI**

10 A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

This month: The tear in Manny Pacquiao's right rotator cuff, revealed after he lost to Floyd Mayweather Jr., instantly became one of the most infamous injuries in boxing history. Here's a list of other notable, non-life-threatening injuries:

1. **JESS WILLARD** suffers myriad horrific injuries at the hands of **JACK DEMPSEY** (1919).
2. **MAX SCHMELING** wins the heavyweight title after a low blow by **JACK SHARKEY** (1930).
3. **MARCEL CERDAN** dislocates his shoulder and eventually quits against **JAKE LAMOTTA** (1949).
4. **MUHAMMAD ALI'S** jaw is broken during a split-decision loss to **KEN NORTON** (1973).
5. **THOMAS HEARNS** breaks his right (power) hand in his KO loss to **MARVIN HAGLER** (1985).
6. **MIKE TYSON** is DQ'd when he gnaws off a portion of **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**'S ear (1997).
7. **HASIM RAHMAN** suffers a baseball-sized knot on his forehead against **HOLYFIELD** (2002).
8. Gruesome cuts end **VITALI KLITSCHKO'S** spirited bid to upset **LENNOX LEWIS** (2003).
9. **YURI FOREMAN** fights **MIGUEL COTTO** on one leg after blowing out his knee (2010).
10. **PACQUIAO** breaks **ANTONIO MARGARITO'S** orbital (eye) bone in a brutal beating (2010).

FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

1 ANTHONY DIRRELL SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTENDER ★
2 OMAR FIGUEROA JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT CONTENDER ★ **3 MIKAEL ZEWSKI** WELTERWEIGHT CONTENDER

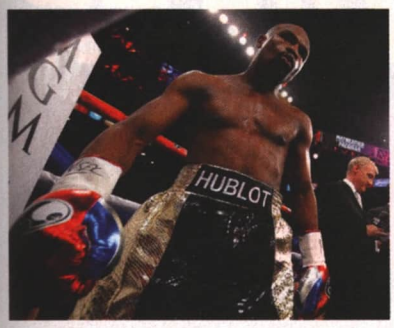
FIGHTER	MUSIC	CAR	FOOD:	TATTOOS	ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING	MOVIE	VIDEO GAME
1.	"I like all types … R&B, hip-hop. I like some country. I like it all, I'm a music guy."	"An Audi A8."	"Lamb chops."	"I have 52. … I have a family tree on my back, with all my brothers and sisters. I love them dearly. I have my son on my chest. I got some when I had cancer. I got 'The Dog' (nickname), my son's initials, stuff like that."	"LeBron James."	"'Remember the Titans.'"	"'Call of Duty.'"
2.	"I listen to anything with a good beat. I don't really care about the words. If it has a good beat, I'll give it a listen."	"I have a Ford F-150, a truck."	"Oh man, I honestly don't discriminate when it comes to food as you can tell by my weight history. Anything my mom cooks I love."	"No, not yet, maybe in the future."	"I'd have to say Tim Duncan."	"'Gladiator,' hands down."	"Between 'FIFA 14' and 'Call of Duty.'"
3.	"I listen to almost anything. I like hip-hop, I like Frank Sinatra, Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles. I have everything on my iPod."	"I don't know, I'm happy with what I have. I've got a Sierra from Honda and I don't feel like I need a Rolls Royce to boost my ego."	"I think the best food is the food that's not healthy. I like poutine; it's a Quebec thing. It's fries, (gravy-like) sauce and cheese. I love it."	"I've got an eagle on my shoulder and a boxer on my back with my last name."	"Usain Bolt."	"'The Hangover.'"	"'Call of Duty.'"

— **Anson Wainwright**

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

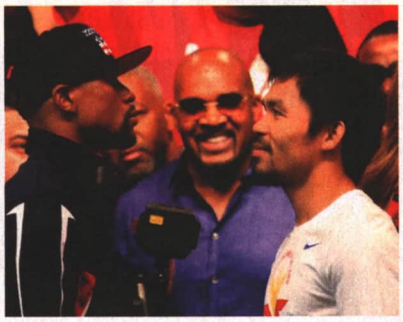
By **Michael Rosenthal**

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH



GOOD

I don't know many people who were surprised that Mayweather schooled Manny Pacquiao on May 2. We've seen him do exactly the same thing against so many other elite opponents over the years. This one was significantly different in one respect, though: Pacquiao was the only one who stood in the way of Mayweather being remembered as the best boxer of his era. And now he has overcome that obstacle by easily outpointing his rival, who very simply couldn't hit him with any consistency because of Mayweather's impenetrable defensive skills. Mayweather is undisputed king. No more discussion. The fight wasn't entertaining, which is a shame given the immense hype, but that's not Mayweather's fault. He has to be who he is, a master of the hit-and-not-be-hit objective of the sweet science. That's how he has built a 48-0 record and stands to become one of the few to finish his career undefeated. His many detractors might not like him or his safety-first fighting style but they have to acknowledge his remarkable gifts and the grueling work he has put in to get the most out of them over two dominating decades.



BAD

I have to acknowledge that I thought Pacquiao would make the fight competitive. I thought the eight-division titleholder was at least as fast as Mayweather and threw enough punches at unusual angles to make it interesting, even at this stage of is career. It wasn't. The one scenario we had hoped to avoid because the entire world – hardcore fans, casual fans, non-fans – was watching became reality: The fight was boring. Mayweather supporters and those content to witness a masterclass demonstration of the sweet science were satisfied, even elated with what they saw but the majority of viewers undoubtedly didn't get it at all. All they saw was one guy chasing and the other one holding and running, while landing enough punches here and there to win a decision. No ebb and flow, no knockdowns, nothing to hang your hat on. They had to have thought afterward: "Seriously?" Those who aren't committed to the sport, thick or thin, might never again buy into a big fight. And they would be justified after what they witnessed. It was a great night for Mayweather but not for boxing.

WORSE

Mayweather and Pacquiao gave us a dud on May 2, a dull, one-sided fight that was devoid of drama. And Pacquiao made it worse by claiming afterward that he entered the fight with a shoulder injury. The fighters' reward for the lamentable night? Mayweather stood to walk away with $200 million or more, depending on pay-per-view numbers. Pacquiao would have to settle for around $120 million, give or take. Make your blood boil? I'm OK with it because I'm a dyed in the wool capitalist; it's simple supply and demand. If the fans were willing to fork over $100 to watch the fight on pay-per-view, then they must've seen the value in it. Athletes in other sports and entertainers also command crazy salaries for the same reason. I understand the outrage, though. Millions of people in the U.S. are struggling to make ends meet. That includes the vast majority of boxers, who sometimes fight for only hundreds of dollars. Someone asked: "Why should Mayweather, Pacquiao and a few others make all the money?" Again, the answer is supply and demand. It does seem unfair, though.

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS

The Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Manny Pacquiao fight left a bad taste in the mouths of many who watched it. We asked: **What's the most disturbing thing about the Mayweather-Pacquiao fight?** Here is how you responded.

THE PERCENTAGES:

26.61	BORRRRRRRRING
14.36	MAYWEATHER NOT GETTING ENOUGH CREDIT
13.04	OVERALL NEGATIVE IMPACT ON BOXING
12.35	THE FIGHTERS' NINE-FIGURE PAYDAYS IN SPITE OF THE ABOVE
10.27	PACQUIAO CAMP HIDING HIS SHOULDER INJURY
8.64	PACQUIAO SAYING HE THOUGHT HE WON
7.38	FANS SAYING THAT PACQUIAO WON
7.35	PACQUIAO USING THE INJURY AS AN EXCUSE

NOTE: *3,183 READERS VOTED*

By Anson Wainwright

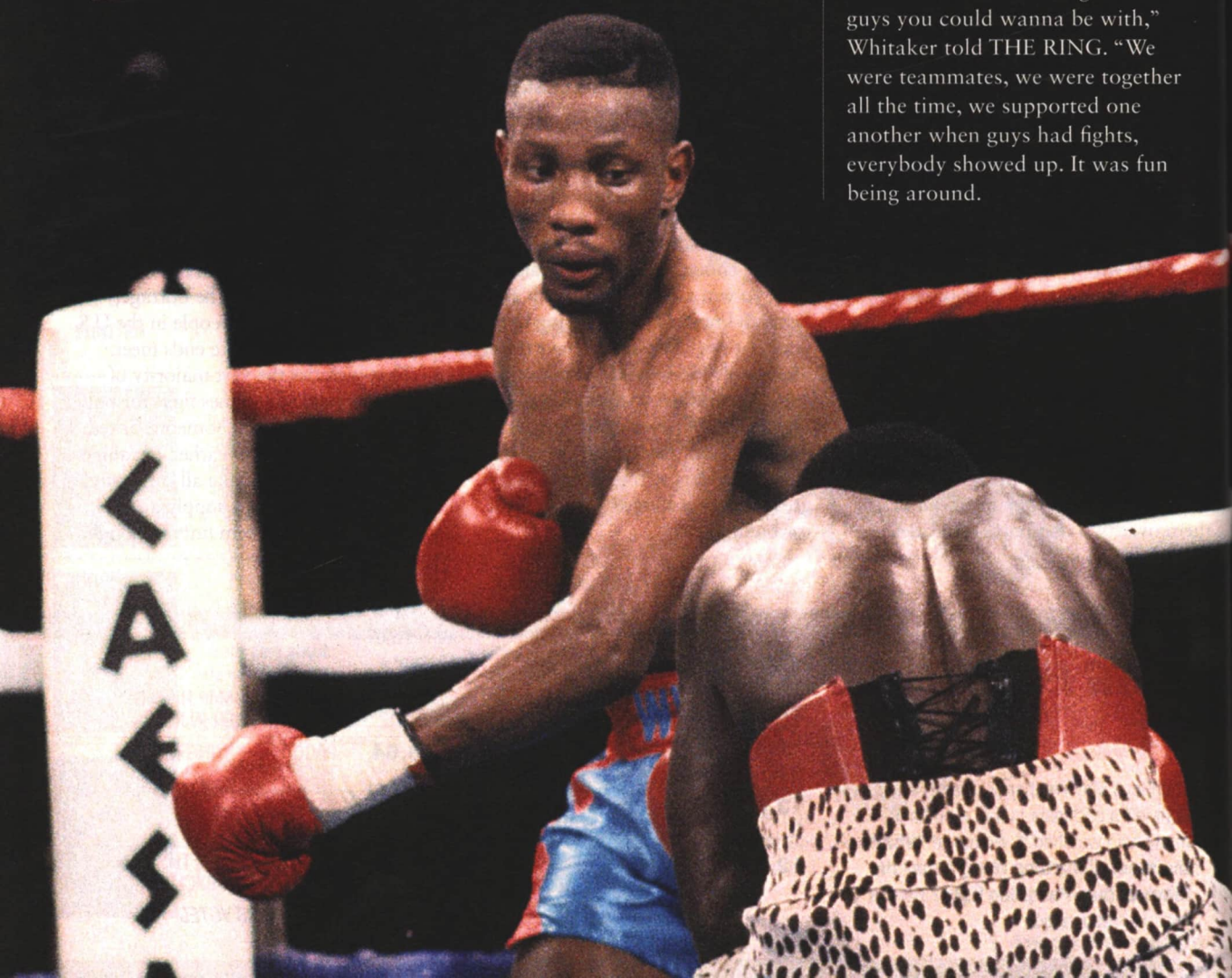
PERNELL WHITAKER

Pernell Whitaker was a southpaw version of Floyd Mayweather Jr. before Mayweather, a defensive wizard who was almost impossible to hit. As a result, he was almost impossible to beat.

Whitaker burst onto the scene as a member of the gifted 1984 U.S. Olympic team, winning a gold medal in the lightweight division. He reportedly finished his amateur career with a sterling record of 201-14.

The Virginia resident has fond memories of his Olympic experience.

"I was with 11 of the greatest guys you could wanna be with," Whitaker told THE RING. "We were teammates, we were together all the time, we supported one another when guys had fights, everybody showed up. It was fun being around.



Pernell Whitaker said Azumah Nelson was the best among many talented opponents.

"It's like one big family, having 11 brothers. The Olympics was different. It was the most successful time in my life winning the Olympic gold medal."

Whitaker was extremely successful as a pro, too, winning world titles in four weight classes to earn recognition as one of the greatest fighters of his generation.

And "Sweet Pea" succeeded even though he often found himself on the wrong end of controversial decisions, starting with his first title shot against WBC champ Jose Luis Ramirez in 1988 in France.

The only people who thought Ramirez won the fight were those closest to him and two of the three judges, who awarded him a split-decision victory. Whitaker rectified the injustice in 1989, first by dominating Greg Haugen to win the IBF 135-pound title by a unanimous decision and then avenging the loss to Ramirez six months later.

Whitaker wouldn't lose again until 1997, when Oscar De La Hoya defeated him by another disputed decision, and would finish with a record of 19-3-1 in world-title fights against some of the best fighters of the time.

The most bitter disappointment of his career might be his draw with Julio Cesar Chavez in San Antonio in 1993, when THE RING ranked Chavez and Whitaker Nos. 1 and 2 in the world.

Once again, Whitaker, too quick and slick for the Mexican legend, appeared to win a clear decision only to learn upon the announcement that he had to settle for a majority draw in a pro-Chavez environment.

Whitaker has come to terms with the result.

"Fighting Chavez is one of my favorite memories," he said. "I know I won. The good thing was the fans know who won."

Whitaker (40-4-1, 17 knockouts) retired after losing a wide decision to Felix Trinidad in an attempt to win back the IBF welterweight belt in 1999 and being forced to quit when he broke his clavicle against Carlos Bojorquez two years later.

He has no regrets.

"I think I had a complete career," he said. "I had a good 17 years as a pro. I tried to fight everybody, I didn't pass up anybody."

Whitaker was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2007. He has five children and three grandchildren. "Life is great," he said. "I'm enjoying myself."

Whitaker kindly agreed to speak about the best fighters he fought in his career in 10 categories.

BEST JAB

Buddy McGirt: I didn't really get hit with them jabs. I tried to keep guys on defense. That was one of my best assets. That's where I start off at, using the jab and being constant, keeping my jab out there. I think every fighter should have a good jab; a good jab could take you a long way. Of the guys I fought I would say Buddy McGirt had the best jab.

BEST DEFENSE

Azumah Nelson: (Laughs) That's a tough one because it never took me long to get to anybody. But if I picked someone, I would say Azumah Nelson. I don't think nobody on this planet had a better defense than I did. There are a lot of fighters with good defense but not like Pernell Whitaker.

BEST CHIN

McGirt: Had a pretty good chin. It's kind of hard to say who had a good chin. I liked hitting to the body; I liked to work from the body up. McGirt took a good punch.

BEST PUNCHER

Julio Cesar Chavez: Everybody I've been in the ring with was considered a big puncher. The one who stands out the most would be Julio Cesar Chavez. I didn't experience any big shots. I don't like taking punches.

FASTEST HANDS

Oscar De La Hoya: I made all these fights so easy, it's hard to say who had the better hand speed. I consider all of them being great, they just weren't quicker than I was, though I would say Oscar De La Hoya had good hand speed. They start off with speed but by the time I break 'em down, the speed's over.

FASTEST FEET

Diosbelys Hurtado: I didn't have a problem with anybody. All the fighters I fought were good fighters. It's hard to give credit when you make guys look so bad all the time. I would say Diosbelys Hurtado had good feet. Like I say I just went in there and took fighters out of their fight game, turn them into being ordinary fighters.

SMARTEST

All of them: All of the guys I fought were smart fighters; I was just a little smarter. Chavez was pretty smart, De La Hoya was a pretty smart kid, McGirt, I fought him twice, he was a veteran. I don't have no favorite.

STRONGEST

Nelson: I didn't give anybody the opportunity to punch. I tried to be the complete boxer. I outboxed all off them. The one that comes to mind is Azumah Nelson. He was a strong guy. He just kept coming forward.

BEST SKILLS

Chavez: [He] was just a good fighter. He had great boxing skills, he was a big puncher, you had to be careful. You don't get caught up with him, going toe to toe.

BEST OVERALL

Nelson: I liked Azumah Nelson. He kept on coming, he never gives up, he hung in there.

By **David Greisman**

YOU CAN'T BEAT WHAT YOU CAN'T HIT

PACQUIAO FARED NO BETTER THAN OTHERS VS. **MAYWEATHER**

Let this sink in for a moment: Manny Pacquiao landed fewer punches on Floyd Mayweather Jr. than nearly every fighter who had gone the full 12 rounds with boxing's pound-for-pound king over the past eight years.

Pacquiao could do no better, statistically speaking, than Marcos Maidana, Canelo Alvarez, Robert Guerrero, Miguel Cotto, Shane Mosley or Oscar De La Hoya, according to CompuBox. The only fighter who landed even less than Pacquiao over the distance was Juan Manuel Marquez. Pacquiao was one punch worse than Zab Judah, two punches better than Carlos Baldomir.

The greatest boxer in the world won the unanimous decision with the greatest of ease, weathering Pacquiao's few moments with little difficulty and making the second-best

Floyd Mayweather Jr. remains a defensive wizard at 38.

fighter of this generation look second-rate.

It was the kind of performance from Mayweather that put to rest any remaining foolishness from those who somehow believed that he had been afraid of Pacquiao during the previous 5½ years. There was no need to avoid facing Pacquiao when he could so deftly avoid Pacquiao while fighting him.

Pride kept them apart. It wasn't about losing in the ring; it was about losing in negotiations. Greed brought them together. This was the largest payday they would ever make. And this was their last chance at making it.

Pacquiao had admitted that his past objections to more stringent drug testing were no longer an issue. He had to admit that he was the B-side of the promotion and Mayweather deserved a greater share of the hundreds of millions in revenue.

There were no more excuses from Pacquiao's team — at least until after he lost.

In the past, Pacquiao had said his socks left him with blistered feet during his first fight with Juan Manuel Marquez, which ended as a draw. He didn't have the gloves he wanted for his loss in his first fight with Erik Morales. There had been calf cramps and distractions in camp for various victories.

Now, in defeat, it came out that Pacquiao had injured his right shoulder years ago and hurt it again in training. He hadn't been allowed to take a painkiller shot hours before the fight. Mayweather had moved too much, Pacquiao said, which explained why Pacquiao had hit him so little.

Oh, and Pacquiao still thought he had done enough to win.

It can be difficult for someone so good to suddenly accept that he's not as great as another. Pacquiao had become accustomed to overwhelming or overpowering his opponents. Against Mayweather, Pacquiao underwhelmed and was powerless to change that reality. It's easier to deflect the blame elsewhere than it is to direct it at yourself.

No one had done this to Pacquiao in the years since he'd developed into a multi-dimensional dynamo. He'd been robbed against Timothy Bradley. He'd been caught with a perfect shot by Marquez. This was the biggest fight of his career and he lost it convincingly.

That will always hurt Pacquiao, though someday this truth will sink in: Only the best boxer of this era could make someone so exceptional look so normal.

★

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. was brave to challenge Andrzej Fonfara in what was essentially his light heavyweight debut. Yet it was Chavez's past foolishness that made it necessary to take on such a tough opponent. He needed to do that much to win respect because he had already done so much to lose it.

He had skated by on his dad's legendary name and accomplishments. He got a title shot he didn't deserve, then held a belt that rightfully belonged to middleweight champion Sergio Martinez. His wins often seemed as much due to advantages in size as his skill. He rehydrated after weigh-ins, knowing that being bigger than his opponents made him better, helping him walk through their shots and break them down. He had to do that, as he gained too much weight between bouts and trained too little before fights. He also drove drunk and smoked marijuana. He still got paid millions of dollars.

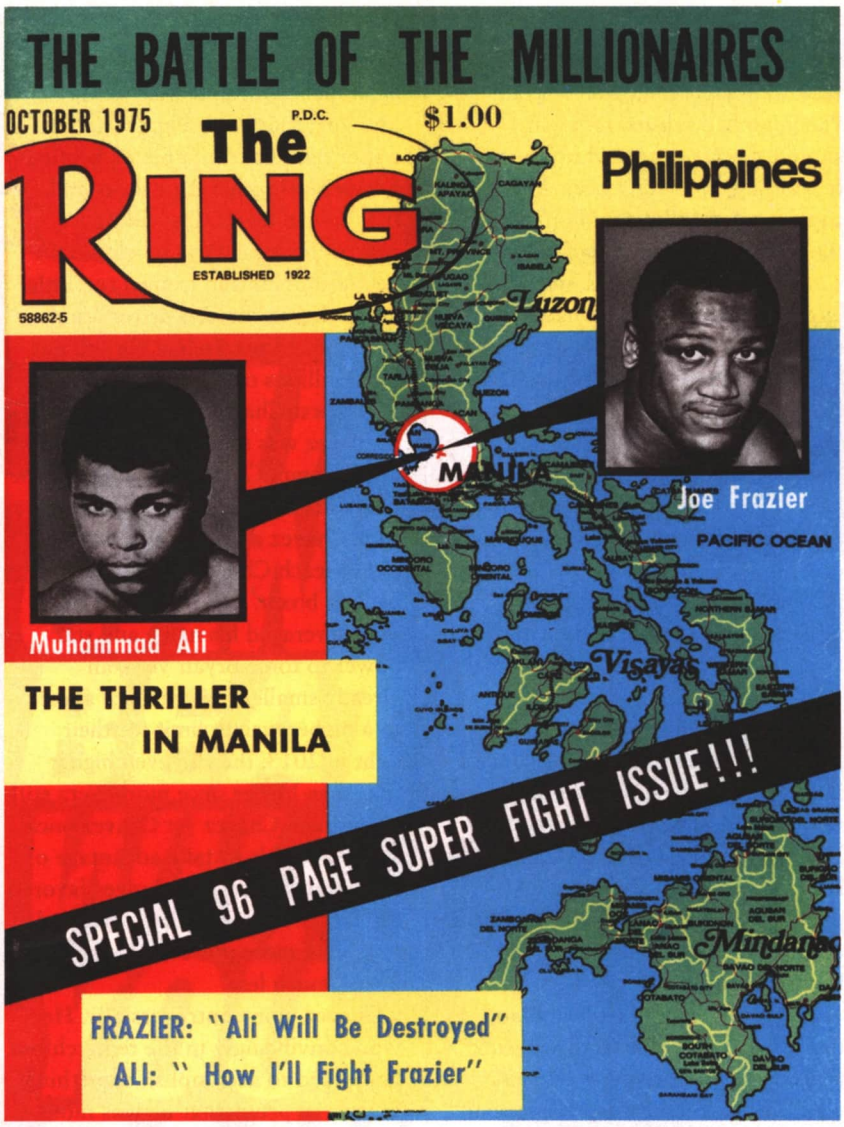
The best Chavez could do against Martinez was score a 12th-round knockdown. Chavez lost all 11 of the rounds that came before. Martinez gave Chavez a boxing lesson. It still didn't teach Chavez a lesson about being a boxer.

He leveraged his name and star power to force Bryan Vera, an already smaller opponent, to agree to a higher weight limit for their fight in 2013, then an even higher one, then higher once more. Vera still outworked Chavez yet Chavez once again was able to take advantage of his circumstances. The judges favored the bigger man who they perceived as having more power even though he did much less.

Chavez won controversially. He won convincingly in the rematch but he needed to accomplish something greater to prove that he was more than just Julio Cesar Chavez Sr.'s privileged progeny. He couldn't make 160 anymore. He'd gained a lot of weight between fights and during a long layoff. So he took a fight with Fonfara, then tried to drain him by negotiating for a catchweight of 172 pounds.

For once, Chavez picked on someone close to his own size. And as a result, he got picked apart, got knocked down, then quit. His detractors delighted in his defeat.

For a decade, Chavez Jr. received the kind of attention and opportunities and paydays that would not have been available were it not for his famous father. His next fight may be the first time — and possibly the last — that he can truly earn something himself.



'THRILLA IN MANILA:' BEST AND WORST OF BOXING

MUHAMMAD ALI'S VICTORY OVER JOE FRAZIER WAS BOTH GLORIOUS AND DAMAGING

In 1989, I sat on the sofa in my living room with Muhammad Ali beside me and watched a tape of Ali's historic Oct. 1, 1975, fight against Joe Frazier.

Boxing fans are familiar with what happened on that hot, humid morning in Manila.

The early rounds belonged to Ali. He outboxed Frazier, landed sharp, clean punches and staggered Joe several times. Frazier kept coming inexorably forward.

The tide turned in the middle rounds. Ali was tiring. Frazier rocked him with thunderous blows. Ali's arms came down and Frazier bludgeoned him against the ropes, pounding, pounding.

Ali regained the initiative in Round 12, wobbled Frazier and measured him for more. One round later, a jolting left hook knocked Frazier's mouthpiece into the crowd. Frazier was shaken but finished the round.

In Round 14, Ali resumed his assault. Frazier's left eye was completely closed. The vision in his right eye was limited. He was spitting blood. Ali's punches were landing cleanly. Joe couldn't see them coming.

Frazier's trainer, Eddie Futch, stopped the fight after the 14th round.

"The Thrilla in Manila was the best fight I've ever seen," Associated Press boxing writer Ed Schuyler later recalled. "As it unfolded, everybody at ringside understood they were watching greatness. The pace never eased. It was hell the whole way. I've never seen two

people give more, ever."

Said writer Jerry Izenberg: "What it came down to wasn't the heavyweight championship of the world. Ali and Frazier were fighting for something more important than that. They were fighting for the championship of each other."

I'd watched tapes of many fights with Ali sitting beside me prior to watching "The Thrilla in Manila." We'd been reviewing his career in chronological order for a book I was writing, "Muhammad Ali: His Life and Times."

This was different.

Despite the fact that it was one of his greatest ring triumphs, there was no joy in Muhammad's face as we watched Ali-Frazier III unfold.

In the past, we'd sat together and witnessed Henry Cooper knocking Cassius Clay close to oblivion with a picture-perfect left hook. That had seemed to entertain Ali.

We'd seen Frazier put Ali on the canvas in Round 15 of their first encounter at Madison Square Garden and Ken Norton break Muhammad's jaw. Those punches were safely ensconced in the annals of history, as were the thudding blows that George Foreman landed in Zaire.

Watching Ali-Frazier III, Ali seemed to be re-experiencing the pain. Sitting beside me, he winced as some of Frazier's blows landed. When the tape ended, he turned to me and said, "Frazier quit just before I did. I didn't think I could fight anymore."

Frazier had his own memories of Manila when he and I talked.

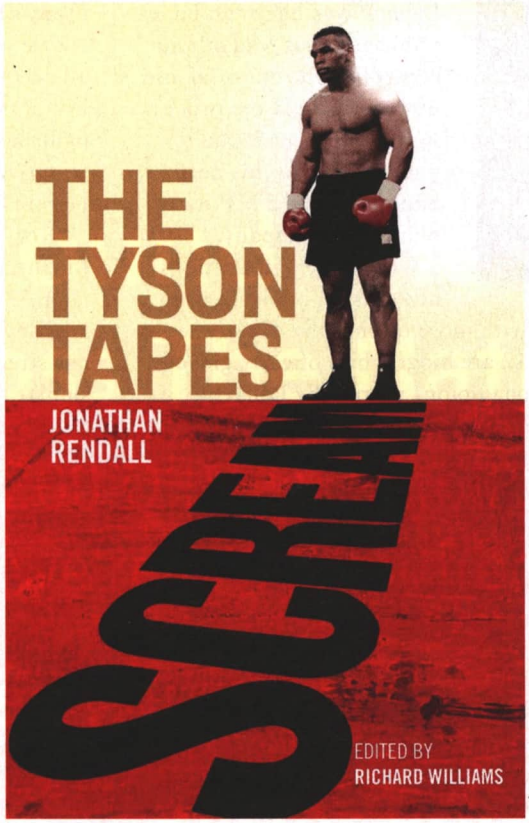
"We were gladiators," Frazier told me. "I didn't ask no favors of him and he didn't ask none of me. I don't like him but I got to say, in the ring, he was a man. In Manila, I hit him punches, those punches, they'd have knocked a building down. And he took 'em. He took 'em and he came back and I got to respect that part of the man. He was a fighter. He shook me in Manila. He won. But I sent him home worse than he came."

Physically, neither man was the same after Manila. They both won and they both lost.

Forty years later, "The Thrilla in Manila" stands as a symbol of what's best and worst about boxing. ★

ON THE BOOKSHELF

'SCREAM: THE TYSON TAPES' IS AN INTRIGUING ORAL HISTORY



British writer Jonathan Rendall taped 10 interviews for a book that he was planning to write about Mike Tyson. Then he fell victim to lifestyle issues and died in 2013 at the much-too-young age of 48. Richard Williams has edited Rendall's unfinished manuscript. The result is an intriguing oral history entitled "Scream: The Tyson Tapes" (Short Books).

"Scream" is divided into four parts: 1. The House; 2. The Coronation; 3. The Fall; and 4. The End. The last three parts are sketchy and superficial. "The House" (in Catskill, where Tyson lived with Cus D'Amato) is well constructed and informative.

Rendall's interviews are woven together to re-create the atmosphere in the house where Tyson spent his formative years as a boxer and young man. The most interesting of these interviews are with trainers Kevin Rooney and Teddy Atlas, who disrespect and dislike each other to the point where the tension between them all but curls the pages of "Scream."

Rooney told Rendall, "Anything Teddy Atlas tells you is bulls--t." Atlas responded in kind, saying, "I consider myself above Rooney. If I'm on an anthill, I'm on Mount Everest compared to him."

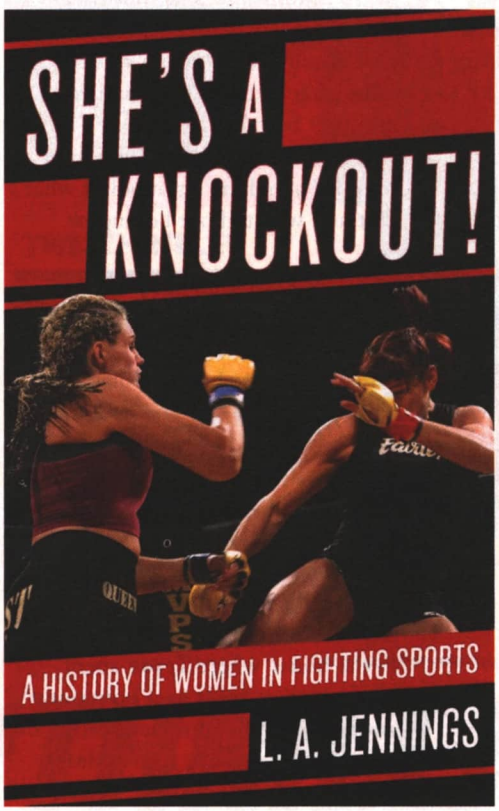
The tangle of emotions between Tyson, Atlas, Rooney and D'Amato is at the heart of "Scream." Sage commentary from boxing maven Don Majeski adds to the book. And Rendall recorded some interesting insights from Nadia Hujtyn, a young

woman who was in the gym in Catskill during the Tyson years.

Hujtyn recalls D'Amato being enthralled by Tyson's potential as a fighter. But at the same time, she remembers Cus prophetically noting, "If he loses desire, it doesn't matter about the rest."

★

"She's a Knockout!" by L.A. Jennings (Rowman & Littlefield) has



an unfortunate title that obscures a serious book.

Jennings is a former mixed martial artist who researched the history of women in combat sports as part of her studies at Florida State University. The book's emphasis is on women who engaged in competition in England and the United States, rather than those who trained for the purpose of conditioning, self-defense, or simply to learn a new art.

The writing is a bit dry at times. But Jennings has conducted serious research and compiled excellent source material on her subject. Although the book covers all combat sports, boxing is well represented.

How much have attitudes toward the involvement of women in combat sports changed over the years?

I have a collection of uncut boxing tickets from historically significant fights. As I write these words, I'm looking at a "working press" ticket for the Sept. 23, 1952, fight in which Rocky Marciano dethroned Jersey Joe Walcott to claim the heavyweight championship of the world.

The ticket is stamped in capital letters in red ink, "LADIES NOT ADMITTED TO PRESS SECTION."

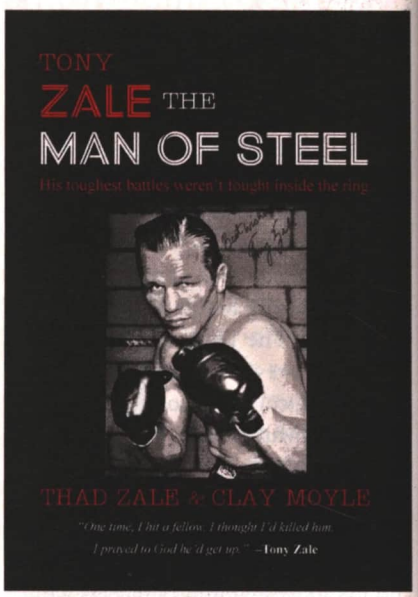
★

Adam Pollack is an Iowa attorney who loves boxing. In 2006, McFarland & Company published his first book, a biography of John L. Sullivan.

Like all first-time authors, Pollack was happy to be published. But McFarland controlled the editorial and business side of the process in ways that made him unhappy. So for his next book, he started his own publishing company.

Win By KO Publications now has 12 books in print with more on the way. Six of the 12 are biographies of early gloved champions written by Pollack himself. There's one novel in the mix, a book by Margaret Goodman entitled "Death in Vegas." Authors contribute to the start-up cost of publication. But if their book sells even modestly well, they make it up on the back end.

Like all good publishers, Pollack rejects books that fall short of his standards for readability and scholarship. "I want to establish a brand name," he says. "It would bother me if a reader felt betrayed after buying one of our books."



Win By KO Publications has tapped into a niche market and is making a significant contribution to the preservation of boxing history. Its most recent offering is "Tony Zale: The Man of Steel," written by boxing historian Clay Moyle in collaboration with Thad Zale (Tony's nephew).

Zale was a good fighter and, by all accounts, a good guy. His three brutal middleweight championship fights against Rocky Graziano (Zale won two of the three) are part of boxing lore.

"Rocky wasn't the toughest guy I fought," Zale told his nephew years later. "But he got the best press."

"Tony Zale: The Man of Steel" has strengths and weaknesses similar to Moyle's earlier biographies of Sam Langford and Billy Miske. There's a treasure trove of information but the book reads at times like a 365-page Wikipedia article. On balance, it's worth the read for a look at an important fighter and a bygone era. RING

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book - *"Thomas Hauser on Boxing"* - was published by the University of Arkansas Press.

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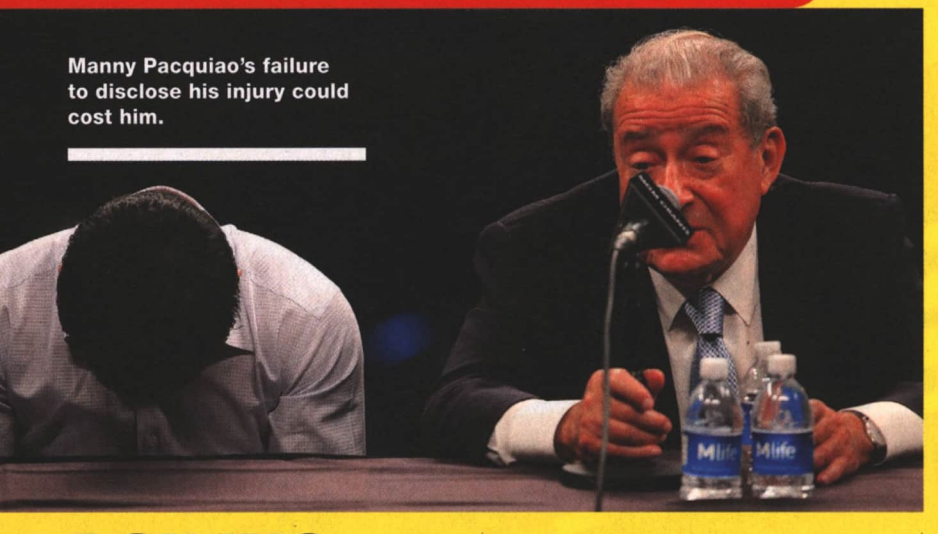


Manny Pacquiao's failure to disclose his injury could cost him.

BOILING POINT

Mike Tyson once tried to explain why he got into so much trouble after fights by, in effect, putting it in terms of pugilistic blue balls. To paraphrase, he said he'd just spent months inflating himself with rage and then his opponent didn't last a round – he had to do *something* with it. But what's the common man supposed to do when his passions can find no release? Sue, of course!

Paying customers of **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** vs. **Manny Pacquiao** had gotten pumped up for three months on hype which liberally used the term "Fight of the Century" and so, even though the century itself was still a teenager, they were expecting to have their worlds rocked just a bit on May 2. The rocking didn't happen and the desires remained inflated. Learning that Pacquiao had fought with a crippled shoulder was too much.

The first lawsuit was filed three days after the fight by two residents of Nevada "on behalf of all persons who purchased tickets; purchased the pay-per-view event; or who wagered money on the event." It essentially alleged that Pacquiao, his promoter and others associated with the fight had gotten rich(er) by knowingly selling the public a lemon. A second class-action suit with almost identical claims was filed in California later that day and others soon followed in multiple states. By May 7 the total number of suits was at least 13 with all of them seeking no less than $5 million in damages for the plaintiffs, identified by one as "tens of thousands of consumers."

These lawsuits coincided with events that perhaps represented a different kind of boiling point. **Al Haymon**, the mysterious architect of Mayweather's "Money" phase and the creator of Premier Boxing Champions, has long been speculatively mentioned alongside a provision of the 1999 Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act that prohibits a promoter and a manager from being the same person. A few days before Mayweather-Pacquiao the Association of Boxing Commissions decided to put those concerns into writing and submitted a letter to U.S. Attorney General **Loretta Lynch** urging her to investigate Haymon for multiple violations. On May 6 **Golden Boy Promotions** announced that it was suing Haymon, "his related companies and Waddell & Reed Financial, Inc. and its related hedge funds," for $300 million in damages. The Golden Boy suit pointed out that even though Haymon is commonly called a manager or an adviser, "Even Haymon-managed fighters themselves repeatedly refer to [him] as their 'promoter.'"

A live-streaming app called **Periscope** could also be in the crosshairs soon. Top Rank is reportedly looking at legal options after viewers around the world used the service, which is owned by Twitter, to watch Mayweather-Pacquiao for free.

Tyson will have a "significant role" in the third installment of the popular Hong Kong action-movie franchise **"Ip Man,"** which is based on the embellished adventures of the martial artist who taught **Bruce Lee** how to be Bruce Lee. Tyson will apparently play a businessman who likes to street fight on the side and a climactic battle against star **Donnie Yen** is a possibility. The movie will also feature a computer-generated version of Lee.

Tony Morgan, trainer of middleweight contender **Willie Monroe Jr.**, was arrested on April 7 after he allegedly sold some methamphetamine to undercover cops in Florida. Morgan was charged with trafficking in meth over 28 grams, having slightly exceeded the limit with four times that amount, and could face seven years in prison.

U.K. promoter **Kelly Maloney** returned to work for the first time since having gender-reassignment surgery to transition from being Frank Maloney, who guided British fighters such as **Lennox Lewis** and **David Haye** to world titles during the past two decades. Maloney said she just couldn't stay away from boxing but has no illusions about it being easy, saying, "I've got to start at the bottom again and there's no getting away from that." Maloney 2.0's latest charge is Scottish heavyweight **Gary Cornish**.

And, in Northern California, 73-year-old **Carl Moore**, an ex-boxer and bouncer, said he punched a bear in the face to save his 15-year-old chihuahua, Lacy. Witnesses said it's true but who knows? Who cares? The news reports were full of Carl cussing and roaring and saying things like, "The man or beast that I run from ain't been born and its mama's already dead!"

Bernard Hopkins demonstrates one of the most basic elements of training.

Jumping Rope

'JUMPING ROPE IMPROVES YOUR HANDS, ARMS AND FEET COORDINATION'

Good boxing demands good technique. A missed step here, an off-balance shot there, and you could be looking up from the canvas. The sport is as much about foot positioning as it is punching power. It's a ballet of fists and feet, of the whole body functioning as one. To achieve that, one must master the fundamentals.

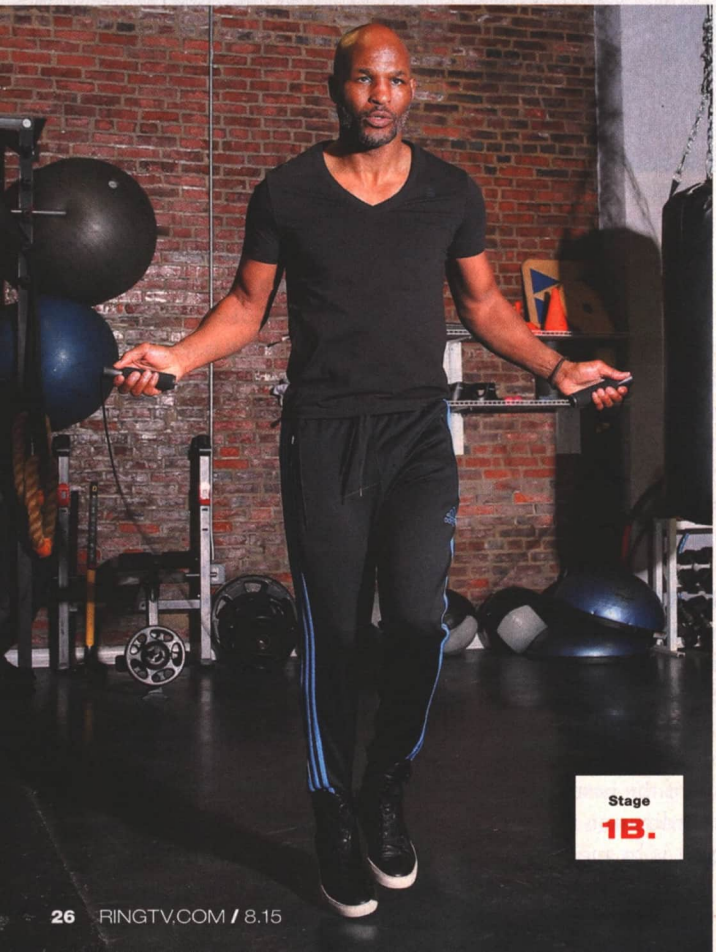
Perhaps no one today has a better understanding of the basics than future Hall of Famer Bernard Hopkins, which is why he plays the leading role in "Perfect Execution."

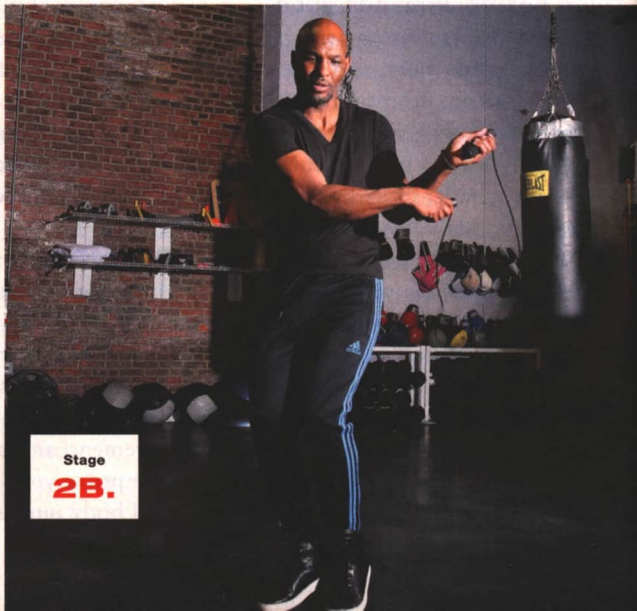
Each month in THE RING Magazine, Hopkins demonstrates a particular skill and explains how to execute it. Photographs help you understand the moves. Our website, RingTV.com, also features an accompanying video that allows you to watch and listen as Hopkins imparts his wisdom.

THIS MONTH: JUMPING ROPE. "Jumping rope improves your hands, arms and feet coordination. When you throw a punch, or really with anything that you do in the ring, it's all about total body movement, and one of the best ways to improve your coordination and total body movement is by jumping rope. It's one of the oldest things to do in the book. And after years and years of fighting, jumping rope is still a major part of my training routine. Jumping rope is also about dancing and being able to move your feet."

GETTING STARTED

Stage 1. We're going to start with the basics. The best way of jumping rope is simply to jump. You want to be patient in doing this, if you're a beginner A-B. I still begin my workouts with basic skipping. If you have to start jumping with just one skip, go ahead and do it. Then you build to two jumps, then three and so on. It's all about being patient. You also want to skip on your toes as much as possible. That





helps build your rhythm in the ring.

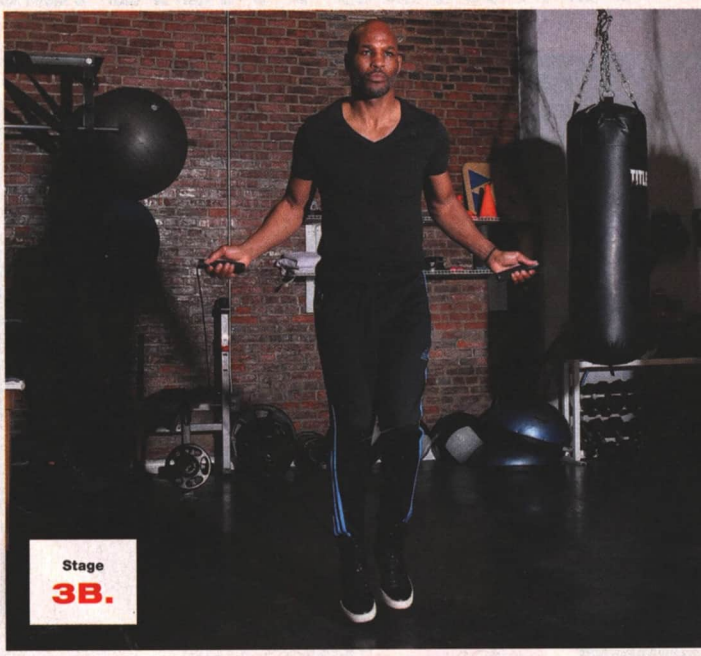
CROSSOVER JUMPING

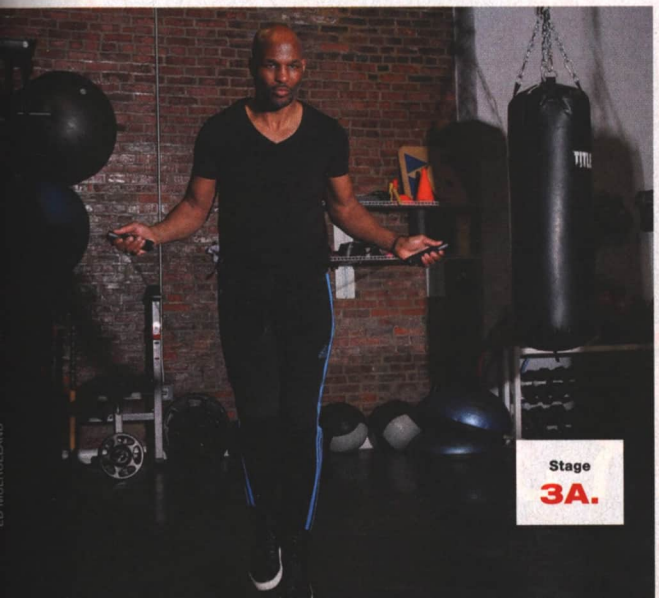
Stage 2. This is more advanced. I'll cross over here to keep this fresh. I'll switch my arms up and want to time my jump with when I cross my arms over with the rope A-B. Again, be patient with this. No one gets it when they first try. So as I suggested before, if you have to do it once, crossing your arms slowly and taking that first jump, then do it. Build toward two jumps, then three. Before you know it, everything is in tandem with each other – your arms, hands and feet C.

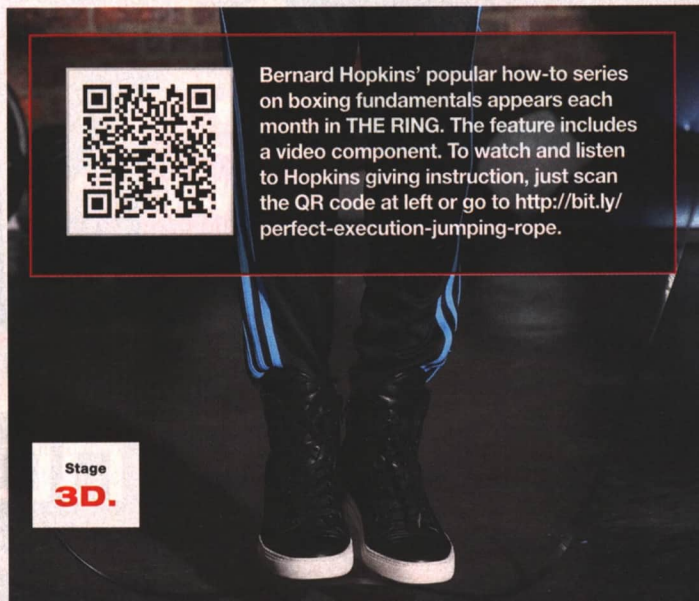
STAY ON YOUR TOES

Stage 3. You need to

be balanced in the ring. That means staying on your toes A. You move from left to right on your toes B-C. I like finishing my workouts with a rope routine for four to six minutes. You don't want to jump with your two feet on your heels flat together D. Jumping is rhythmic. You must jump the way you fight – up and down motion, to your right and to your left. You want to simulate how you fight. You don't fight with your feet together, do you? That's how you get knocked out or definitely knocked down. You move on your toes, one foot and then the other. Like you fight, one foot and then the other.







Bernard Hopkins' popular how-to series on boxing fundamentals appears each month in THE RING. The feature includes a video component. To watch and listen to Hopkins giving instruction, just scan the QR code at left or go to http://bit.ly/perfect-execution-jumping-rope.

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

By **Michael Rosenthal**

Who else?

Everyone wondered for five-plus years whether Manny Pacquiao was capable of pushing Floyd Mayweather Jr. to the limit. Turns out "Money" is light-years ahead of the Filipino hero, too.

Mayweather's defensive wizardry baffled Pacquiao just as it has so many others over two decades, allowing him to win the most hyped fight in a generation by a convincing decision on May 2 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

The fight wasn't entertaining, the result of Mayweather's safety-first style, but that doesn't matter. He dominated the No. 2 fighter of the era, which strengthened his hold on No. 1.

Ignore Pacquiao's excuses afterward. He chose to fight with a damaged right shoulder and he lost. That's on him. Mayweather did his job, he won easily, and he deserves all the credit in the world.

On top of that Mayweather will be somewhere in the neighborhood of $200 million richer, a result of pay-per-view buys that were expected to approach 4 million and other revenue streams.

It was quite a night for the king of boxing.

The sad thing for his fans and those who admire his ability is that the end is near. He declared after the bout that he will fight only once more, in September, and then retire as an active fighter.

In one sense, it's too bad this wasn't his last fight. It would have been the perfect punctuation mark on an amazing career. RING

Floyd Mayweather Jr. proved again that he's the best.

POUND FOR POUND: In the wake of his loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr. (No. 1), Manny Pacquiao fell from No. 3 to No. 5. Tim Bradley (No. 6 last month) was dropped entirely and Juan Manuel Marquez (No. 7 last month) was lowered to No. 9. Roman Gonzalez and Guillermo Rigondeaux each gained a rank while Carl Froch, Gennady Golovkin and Sergey Kovalev each gained two ranks in the process. Undefeated two-division titleholder Terence Crawford joined the list at No. 10.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Ola Afolabi (No. 5 last month) was knocked out of the ratings by a unanimous-decision loss to Victor Ramirez, who entered the list at No. 6. Undefeated Russian Dmitry Kudryashov debuted at No. 10 after dispatching former title challenger Francisco Palacios (unrated) in 52 seconds.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Artur Beterbiev rose from No. 10 to No. 7 after a fourth-round knockout of Gabriel Campillo (No. 9) last month. Campillo dropped out and South African Thomas Oosthuizen came in at No. 10.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. (No. 9 last month) was removed after losing to Andrzej Fonfara at light heavyweight; Felix Sturm rose from No. 10 into the vacancy and undefeated Liverpudlian Callum Smith took the bottom spot. Unrated Swede Badou Jack then came in at No. 8 after taking the WBC title from Anthony Dirrell, who fell from No. 6 to No. 10 and thus pushed Smith off the list.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: With his future in doubt but his best days certainly behind him, former champion Sergio Martinez (No. 3 last month) was dropped from the ratings. Andy Lee and Peter Quillin (Nos. 6 and 2, respectively) fought to a lackluster draw, after which Lee was raised to No. 2 and Quillin dropped to No. 3. With the upward movement caused by Martinez's departure, the U.K.'s Chris Eubank Jr. came in at No. 10.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Jermell Charlo (No. 6 last month) won a close decision over No. 5 Vanes Martirosyan; they switched places. Meanwhile, Charlo's twin brother, Jermall (No. 7 last month), outpointed unrated Michael Finney but dropped to No. 8. Julian Williams went from No. 10 to No. 9 after a shutout decision over Joey "Twinkle Fingers" Hernandez (unrated).

WELTERWEIGHTS: Now a mere mortal like the rest of Mayweather's victims, Pacquiao dropped from No. 1 to No. 2. This lifted Kell Brook, the only welterweight other than Mayweather to hold a title, into the top contender position.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: No. 8 Khabib Allakhverdiev was removed for inactivity and the upward slide created a space for undefeated American Jose Benavidez at No. 10. In his first fight at 140 pounds, former lightweight champ Terence Crawford won the WBO title with a sixth-round knockout of Thomas Dulorme (No. 8 at the time). Dulorme dropped out and Crawford came in at No. 5.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Crawford (champion last month) moved up to fight at 140. Omar Figueroa (No. 1 last month) was also removed, having vacated his 135-pound title, and Juan Diaz (No. 6 last month) was banished for weak opposition during his comeback. This all left the championship vacant and empty spaces at No. 9 and No. 10. Russia's Denis Shafikov took the former and Montenegro's Dejan Zlaticanin took the latter.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Rances Barthelemy (No. 2 last month) moved up in weight; his departure lifted everyone previously below him and left room for undefeated Thai fighter Jomthong Chuwatana to enter at No. 10. Orlando Salido then fell back to his original spot at No. 7 after he lost a unanimous decision and his WBO title to Roman Martinez (No. 6 last month), who ended up at No. 4.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Nonito Donaire dropped in weight and vacated the No. 6 spot. Jhonny Gonzalez (No. 1 last month) ended up in that spot after losing his WBC title to unrated Gary Russell Jr., who entered at No. 3. Nicholas "Axe Man" Walters became the new No. 1.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: Donaire easily took care of William Prado (unrated) in two rounds and settled at No. 4. The downward shift pushed Hugo Ruiz (No. 10 last month) off the list.

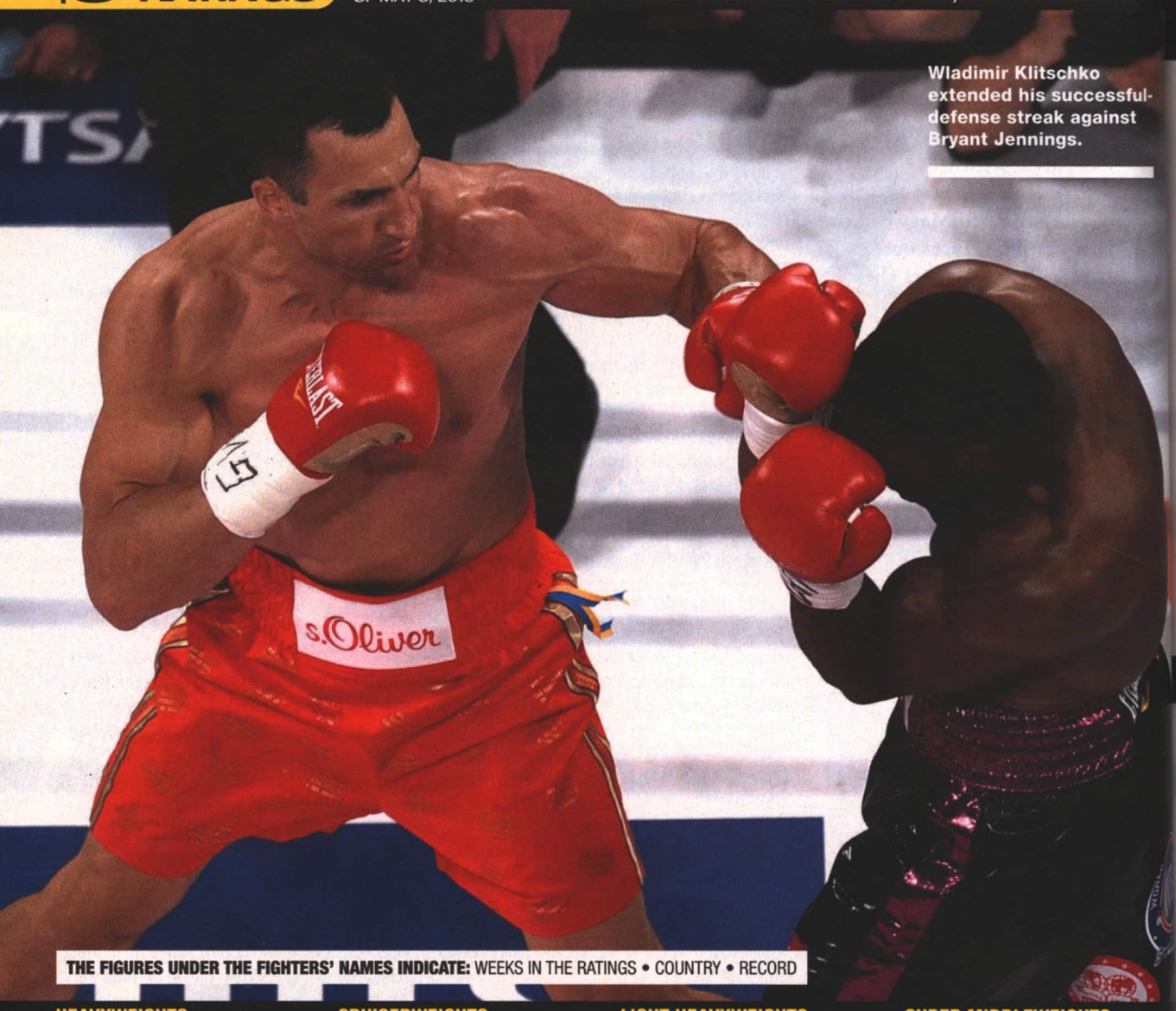
BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

FLYWEIGHTS: Kazuto Ioka (No. 9 last month) outboxed Juan Carlos Reveco in Japan and took his No. 5 rating. Reveco dropped a notch to No. 6.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No. 2 Moises Fuentes and No. 4 Akira Yaegashi both moved up in weight. After everyone moved up to fill the gaps, IBF titleholder Javier Mendoza moved in at No. 9 and Filipino Rey Loreto took the No. 10 spot.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No changes.



Wladimir Klitschko extended his successful-defense streak against Bryant Jennings.

THE FIGURES UNDER THE FIGHTERS' NAMES INDICATE: WEEKS IN THE RATINGS • COUNTRY • RECORD

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
520 • Ukraine • 64-3-0 (53 KOs)

1. ALEXANDER POVETKIN
394 • Russia • 28-1-0 (20 KOs)

2. DEONTAY WILDER
76 • U.S. • 33-0-0 (32 KOs)

3. TYSON FURY
168 • U.K. • 24-0-0 (18 KOs)

4. KUBRAT PULEV
186 • Bulgaria • 20-1-0 (11 KOs)

5. BRYANT JENNINGS
59 • U.S. • 19-1-0 (10 KOs)

6. BERMANE STIVERNE
106 • Canada • 24-2-1 (21 KOs)

7. VYACHESLAV GLAZKOV
60 • Ukraine • 20-0-1 (12 KOs)

8. MIKE PEREZ
48 • Cuba • 21-1-1 (13 KOs)

9. RUSLAN CHAGAEV
26 • Uzbek. • 33-2-1 (20 KOs)

10. TONY THOMPSON
8 • U.S. • 40-5-0 (27 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

C YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ
188 • Cuba • 29-1-0 (14 KOs)

1. MARCO HUCK
165 • Germany • 38-2-1 (26 KOs)

2. GRIGORY DROZD
83 • Russia • 39-1-0 (27 KOs)

3. DENIS LEBEDEV
275 • Russia • 27-2-0 (20 KOs)

4. KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK
517 • Poland • 49-3-1 (35 KOs)

5. FIRAT ARSLAN
131 • Germany • 35-8-2 (21 KOs)

6. VICTOR RAMIREZ
4 • Argentina • 22-2-0 (17 KOs)

7. ILUNGA MAKABU
95 • Congo • 18-1-0 (17 KOs)

8. THABISO MCHUNU
81 • S. Africa • 17-1-0 (11 KOs)

9. YOURI KALENGA
46 • Congo • 21-2-0 (14 KOs)

10. DMITRY KUDRYASHOV
4 • Russia • 17-0-0 (17 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

C ADONIS STEVENSON
100 • Canada • 26-1-0 (21 KOs)

1. SERGEY KOVALEV
120 • Russia • 27-0-1 (24 KOs)

2. BERNARD HOPKINS
466 • U.S. • 55-7-2 (32 KOs)

3. JEAN PASCAL
95 • Canada • 29-3-1 (17 KOs)

4. JUERGEN BRAEHMER
149 • Germany • 46-2-0 (34 KOs)

5. ELEIDER ALVAREZ
60 • Colombia • 16-0-0 (9 KOs)

6. ISAAC CHILEMBA
158 • Malawi • 24-2-2 (10 KOs)

7. ARTUR BETERBIEV
21 • Russia • 8-0-0 (8 KOs)

8. ANDRZEJ FONFARA
51 • Poland • 27-3-0 (16 KOs)

9. NADJIB MOHAMMEDI
33 • France • 37-3-0 (23 KOs)

10. THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN
5 • S. Africa • 24-0-2 (14 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. CARL FROCH
466 • U.K. • 33-2-0 (24 KOs)

2. ARTHUR ABRAHAM
291 • Armenia • 42-4-0 (28 KOs)

3. GEORGE GROVES
178 • U.K. • 21-2-0 (16 KOs)

4. JAMES DEGALE
100 • U.K. • 20-1-0 (14 KOs)

5. ROBERT STIEGLITZ
299 • Russia • 47-4-1 (27 KOs)

6. GILBERTO RAMIREZ
43 • Mexico • 31-0-0 (24 KOs)

7. ANDRE DIRRELL
36 • U.S. • 24-1-0 (16 KOs)

8. BADOU JACK
2 • Sweden • 19-1-1 (12 KOs)

9. FELIX STURM
26 • Germany • 39-4-3 (18 KOs)

10. ANTHONY DIRRELL
38 • U.S. • 27-1-1 (22 KOs)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C MIGUEL COTTO
48 • P.R. • 39-4-0 (32 KOs)

1. GENNADY GOLOVKIN
178 • Kaz. • 32-0-0 (29 KOs)

2. ANDY LEE
21 • Ireland • 34-2-1 (24 KOs)

3. PETER QUILLIN
153 • U.S. • 31-0-1 (22 KOs)

4. DANIEL GEALE
308 • Australia • 31-3-0 (16 KOs)

5. HASSAN N'DAM
68 • Cameroon • 31-1-0 (18 KOs)

6. MARTIN MURRAY
179 • U.K. • 29-2-1 (12 KOs)

7. JERMAIN TAYLOR
30 • U.S. • 33-4-1 (20 KOs)

8. BILLY JOE SAUNDERS
23 • U.K. • 21-0-0 (11 KOs)

9. DANIEL JACOBS
21 • U.S. • 29-1-0 (26 KOs)

10. CHRIS EUBANK JR.
4 • U.K. • 19-1-0 (14 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
157 • U.S. • 48-0-0 (26 KOs)

1. CANELO ALVAREZ
234 • Mexico • 44-1-1 (31 KOs)

2. ERISLANDY LARA
201 • Cuba • 20-2-2 (12 KOs)

3. AUSTIN TROUT
153 • U.S. • 28-2-0 (15 KOs)

4. DEMETRIUS ANDRADE
108 • U.S. • 21-0-0 (14 KOs)

5. JERMELL CHARLO
78 • U.S. • 26-0-0 (11 KOs)

6. VANES MARTIROSYAN
283 • U.S. • 35-2-1 (21 KOs)

7. CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE
30 • U.S. • 34-5-0 (19 KOs)

8. JERMALL CHARLO
47 • U.S. • 21-0-0 (16 KOs)

9. JULIAN WILLIAMS
21 • U.S. • 19-0-1 (11 KOs)

10. CARLOS MOLINA
201 • Mexico • 22-6-2 (6 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
190 • U.S. • 48-0-0 (26 KOs)

1. KELL BROOK
211 • U.K. • 34-0-0 (23 KOs)

2. MANNY PACQUIAO
287 • Phil. • 57-6-2 (38 KOs)

3. AMIR KHAN
53 • U.K. • 30-3-0 (19 KOs)

4. TIM BRADLEY
152 • U.S. • 31-1-1 (12 KOs)

5. KEITH THURMAN
113 • U.S. • 25-0-0 (21 KOs)

6. JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ
126 • Mexico • 56-7-1 (40 KOs)

7. SHAWN PORTER
74 • U.S. • 25-1-1 (16 KOs)

8. MARCOS MAIDANA
73 • Argentina • 35-5-0 (31 KOs)

9. ROBERT GUERRERO
145 • U.S. • 32-3-1 (18 KOs)

10. DIEGO CHAVES
21 • Argentina • 23-2-1 (19 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C DANNY GARCIA
213 • U.S. • 30-0-0 (17 KOs)

1. LUCAS MATTHYSSE
213 • Argentina • 37-3-0 (34 KOs)

2. LAMONT PETERSON
115 • U.S. • 33-3-1 (17 KOs)

3. RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV
126 • Russia • 24-4-0 (17 KOs)

4. ADRIEN BRONER
53 • U.S. • 30-1-0 (22 KOs)

5. TERENCE CRAWFORD
3 • U.S. • 26-0-0 (18 KOs)

6. CHRIS ALGIERI
47 • U.S. • 20-1-0 (8 KOs)

7. JESSIE VARGAS
56 • U.S. • 26-0-0 (9 KOs)

8. VIKTOR POSTOL
90 • Ukraine • 27-0-0 (11 KOs)

9. MAURICIO HERRERA
15 • U.S. • 21-5-0 (7 KOs)

10. JOSE BENAVIDEZ
4 • U.S. • 22-0-0 (15 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. RAYMUNDO BELTRAN
145 • Mexico • 30-7-1 (18 KOs)

2. RICHAR ABRIL
33 • Cuba • 19-3-1 (8 KOs)

3. MICKEY BEY
34 • U.S. • 21-1-1 (10 KOs)

4. MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
248 • Mexico • 35-4-0 (13 KOs)

5. JORGE LINARES
61 • Venezuela • 38-3-0 (25 KOs)

6. SHARIF BOGERE
27 • Uganda • 26-1-0 (18 KOs)

7. KEVIN MITCHELL
14 • U.K. • 39-2-0 (29 KOs)

8. DIERRY JEAN
23 • Canada • 28-1-0 (20 KOs)

9. DENIS SHAFIKOV
4 • Russia • 35-1-1 (19 KOs)

10. DEJAN ZLATICANIN
4 • Montenegro • 20-0-0 (13 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. TAKASHI UCHIYAMA
279 • Japan • 22-0-1 (18 KOs)

2. TAKASHI MIURA
109 • Japan • 29-2-2 (22 KOs)

3. BRYAN VASQUEZ
21 • Costa Rica • 34-1-0 (18 KOs)

4. ROMAN MARTINEZ
348 • P.R. • 29-2-2 (17 KOs)

5. FRANCISCO VARGAS
43 • Mexico • 22-0-1 (16 KOs)

6. JAVIER FORTUNA
27 • Dom. Rep. • 27-0-1 (20 KOs)

7. ORLANDO SALIDO
33 • Mexico • 42-13 -2 (29 KOs)

8. JOSE PEDRAZA
16 • P.R. • 19-0-0 (12 KOs)

9. ADRIAN ESTRELLA
7 • Mexico • 22-0-0 (20 KOs)

10. JOMTHONG CHUWATANA
6 • Thailand • 9-0-0 (4 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. NICHOLAS WALTERS
126 • Jamaica • 25-0-0 (21 KOs)

2. VASYL LOMACHENKO
53 • Ukraine • 4-1-0 (2 KO)

3. GARY RUSSELL JR.
6 • U.S. • 26-1-0 (15 KOs)

4. ABNER MARES
105 • Mexico • 29-1-1 (15 KOs)

5. EVGENY GRADOVICH
114 • Russia • 19-0-1 (9 KOs)

6. JHONNY GONZALEZ
214 • Mexico • 57-9-0 (48 KOs)

7. SIMPIWE VETYEKA
74 • S. Africa • 27-3-0 (16 KOs)

8. LEE SELBY
60 • U.K. • 20-1-0 (8 KOs)

9. JESUS CUELLAR
30 • Argentina • 26-1-0 (20 KOs)

10. JAYSON VELEZ
23 • P.R. • 22-0-1 (16 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
235 • Cuba • 15-0-0 (10 KOs)

1. CARL FRAMPTON
137 • U.K. • 20-0-0 (14 KOs)

2. LEO SANTA CRUZ
105 • U.S. • 30-0-1 (17 KOs)

3. SCOTT QUIGG
128 • U.K. • 30-0-2 (22 KOs)

4. NONITO DONAIRE
6 • Phil. • 34-3-0 (22 KOs)

5. GENESIS SERVANIA
60 • Phil. • 26-0-0 (11 KOs)

6. KID GALAHAD
38 • U.K. • 18-0-0 (9 KOs)

7. ANDRES GUTIERREZ
33 • Mexico • 31-0-1 (22 KOs)

8. SHINGO WAKE
24 • Japan • 18-4-2 (11 KOs)

9. REY VARGAS
21 • Mexico • 23-0-0 (20 KOs)

10. ALBERT PAGARA
18 • Phil. • 23-0-0 (16 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings Chairman Chuck Giampa considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world but has final say on all changes. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

Records provided by boxrec.com

RING RATINGS

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
   183 • Japan • 23-0-2 (17 KOs)
2. **JUAN CARLOS PAYANO**
   32 • Dom. Rep. • 16-0-0 (8 KOs)
3. **ANSELMO MORENO**
   371 • Panama • 35-3-1 (12 KOs)
4. **KOKI KAMEDA**
   229 • Japan • 33-1-0 (18 KOs)
5. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   224 • Phil. • 35-3-3 (20 KOs)
6. **TOMOKI KAMEDA**
   92 • Japan • 31-0-0 (19 KOs)
7. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
   105 • U.K. • 25-2-1 (12 KOs)
8. **RANDY CABALLERO**
   28 • U.S. • 22-0-0 (13 KOs)
9. **KIKO MARTINEZ**
   21 • Spain • 32-5-0 (24 KOs)
10. **RYOSUKE IWASA**
    10 • Japan • 19-1-0 (12 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **NAOYA INOUE**
   18 • Japan • 8-0-0 (7 KOs)
2. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
   156 • Mexico • 32-0-1 (25 KOs)
3. **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
   105 • Thailand • 33-4-1 (30 KOs)
4. **ZOLANI TETE**
   75 • S. Africa • 20-3-0 (17 KOs)
5. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
   261 • Argentina • 43-2-2 (23 KOs)
6. **ARTHUR VILLANUEVA**
   107 • Phil. • 27-0-0 (14 KOs)
7. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
   136 • Thailand • 56-1-1 (21 KOs)
8. **FELIPE ORUCUTA**
   102 • Mexico • 30-3-0 (25 KOs)
9. **MCJOE ARROYO**
   47 • P.R. • 16-0-0 (8 KOs)
10. **DAVID SANCHEZ**
    12 • Mexico • 27-2-2 (21 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C ROMAN GONZALEZ
78 • Nicaragua • 42-0-0 (36 KOs)

1. **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA**
   109 • Mexico • 32-2-0 (23 KOs)
2. **AMNAT RUENROENG**
   52 • Thailand • 15-0-0 (5 KOs)
3. **BRIAN VILORIA**
   200 • U.S. • 35-4-0 (21 KOs)
4. **EDGAR SOSA**
   156 • Mexico • 51-8-0 (30 KOs)
5. **KAZUTO IOKA**
   33 • Japan • 17-1-0 (10 KOs)
6. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
   188 • Argentina • 35-2-0 (19 KOs)
7. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
   60 • S. Africa • 31-2-0 (20 KOs)
8. **GIOVANI SEGURA**
   79 • Mexico • 32-4-1 (28 KOs)
9. **MCWILLIAMS ARROYO**
   35 • P.R. • 16-2-0 (14 KOs)
10. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
    21 • Phil. • 21-2-0 (13 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C DONNIE NIETES
187 • Phil. • 35-1-4 (21 KOs)

1. **PEDRO GUEVARA**
   110 • Mexico • 25-1-1 (17 KOs)
2. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
   211 • Mexico • 30-3-1 (19 KOs)
3. **FELIX ALVARADO**
   112 • Nicaragua • 19-2-0 (16 KOs)
4. **MILAN MELINDO**
   25 • Phil. • 32-1-0 (12 KOs)
5. **RYOICHI TAGUCHI**
   21 • Japan • 21-2-1 (8 KOs)
6. **RANDY PETALCORIN**
   52 • Phil. • 23-1-1 (18 KOs)
7. **RAUL GARCIA**
   18 • Mexico • 36-3-1 (22 KOs)
8. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
   106 • Peru • 33-9-0 (13 KOs)
9. **JAVIER MENDOZA**
   4 • Mexico • 23-2-1 (19 KOs)
10. **REY LORETO**
    4 • Phil. • 20-13-0 (12 KOs)

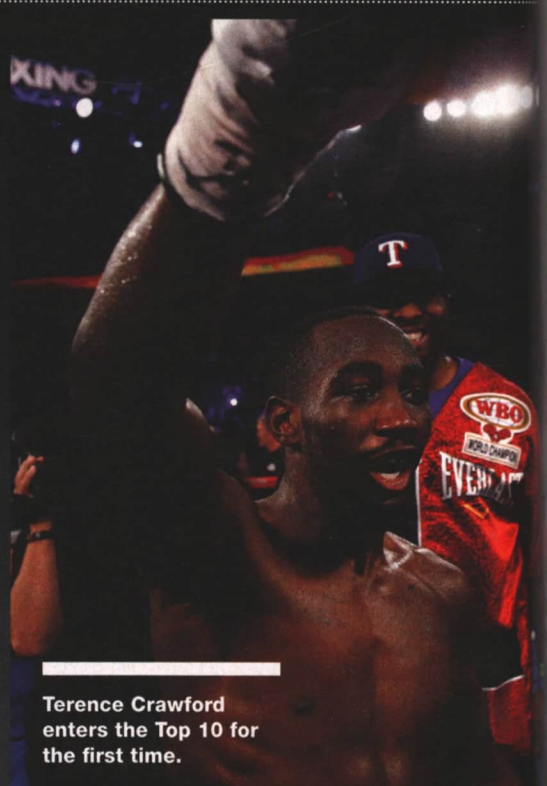
STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
   137 • S. Africa • 28-1-0 (9 KOs)
2. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
   110 • Japan • 29-7-0 (11 KOs)
3. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
   203 • Thailand • 37-0-0 (12 KOs)
4. **KOSEI TANAKA**
   27 • Japan • 4-0-0 (2 KOs)
5. **KNOCKOUT CP FRESHMART**
   31 • Thailand • 10-0-0 (5 KOs)
6. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
   134 • Nicaragua • 28-1-1 (16 KOs)
7. **RYUJI HARA**
   88 • Japan • 18-1-0 (10 KOs)
8. **XIONG ZHAO ZHONG**
   25 • China • 25-6-1 (14 KOs)
9. **DENVER CUELLO**
   25 • Phil. • 35-5-6 (23 KOs)
10. **OSWALDO NOVOA**
    65 • Mexico • 14-5-2 (9 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
   190 • U.S. • 48-0-0 (26 KOs)
2. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
   248 • Ukraine • 64-3-0 (53 KOs)
3. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
   48 • Nicaragua • 42-0-0 (36 KOs)
4. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
   89 • Cuba • 15-0-0 (10 KOs)
5. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   597 • Phil. • 57-6-2 (38 KOs)
6. **CARL FROCH**
   73 • U.K. • 33-2-0 (24 KOs)
7. **GENNADY GOLOVKIN**
   12 • Kaz. • 32-0-0 (29 KOs)
8. **SERGEY KOVALEV**
   8 • Russia • 27-0-1 (24 KOs)
9. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   426 • Mexico • 56-7-1 (40 KOs)
10. **TERENCE CRAWFORD**
    1 • U.S. • 26-0-0 (18 KOs)



Terence Crawford enters the Top 10 for the first time.

THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

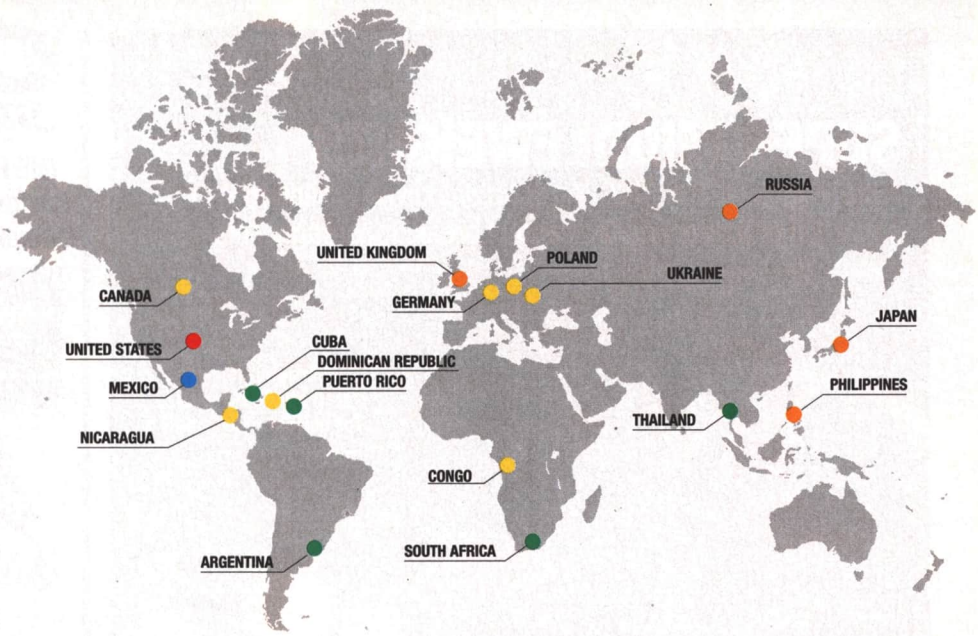
RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	35*	
MEXICO	24	▼ 2
UNITED KINGDOM	15	
JAPAN	13	▼ 1
PHILIPPINES	12	▲ 1
RUSSIA	10	
ARGENTINA	7	
PUERTO RICO	6	▼ 1
SOUTH AFRICA	6	▲ 1
THAILAND	6	▲ 1
CUBA	5	▼ 1
CANADA	4	
GERMANY	4	
UKRAINE	4	
NICARAGUA	3	
CONGO	2	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2	
POLAND	2	
SPAIN	1	▼ 1
ARMENIA	1	
AUSTRALIA	1	
BULGARIA	1	
CAMEROON	1	
CHINA	1	
COLOMBIA	1	
COSTA RICA	1	
FRANCE	1	
IRELAND	1	
JAMAICA	1	
KAZAKHSTAN	1	
MALAWI	1	
MONTENEGRO	1	
PANAMA	1	
PERU	1	
SWEDEN	1	
UGANDA	1	
UZBEKISTAN	1	
VENEZUELA	1	

Countries out (from last month): None.

Countries in: Sweden and Montenegro.

** Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight and welterweight).*



ELITE VS. NEXT TIER VS. THE REST

THE RING Ratings are divided fairly evenly between three groups – U.S.-Mexico, U.K.-Japan-Philippines-Russia and the remaining countries with at least one fighter represented. Here's a look.

DIVISION	ELITE	NEXT	REST
HEAVYWEIGHTS	3	2	6
CRUISERWEIGHTS	0	3	8
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	1	2	8
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	3	4	3
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	3	3	5
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	10	0	1
WELTERWEIGHTS	6	3	2
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	8	1	2
LIGHTWEIGHTS	3	2	5
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	3	2	5
FEATHERWEIGHTS	3	2	5
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	3	7	1
BANTAMWEIGHTS	1	6	3
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	3	2	5
FLYWEIGHTS	4	2	5
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	4	5	2
STRAWWEIGHTS	1	4	5
TOTAL	59	50	71

AT A LOSS

Manny Pacquiao is now 3-3 in his past six fights, giving him six losses in his career. That's among the most for fighters rated by THE RING. Here's the list (in order of losses).

13 REY LORETO, JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT (20-13)

13 ORLANDO SALIDO, JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT (42-13-2)

9 JHONNY GONZALEZ, FEATHERWEIGHT (57-9)

9 ALBERTO ROSSEL, JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT (33-9)

8 FIRAT ARSLAN, CRUISERWEIGHT (35-8-2)

8 EDGAR SOSA, FLYWEIGHT (51-8)

7 RAYMUNDO BELTRAN, LIGHTWEIGHT (30-7-1)

7 BERNARD HOPKINS, LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT (55-7-2)

7 JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ, WELTERWEIGHT (56-7-1)

7 KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA, STRAWWEIGHT (29-7)

6 CARLOS MOLINA, JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT (22-6-2)

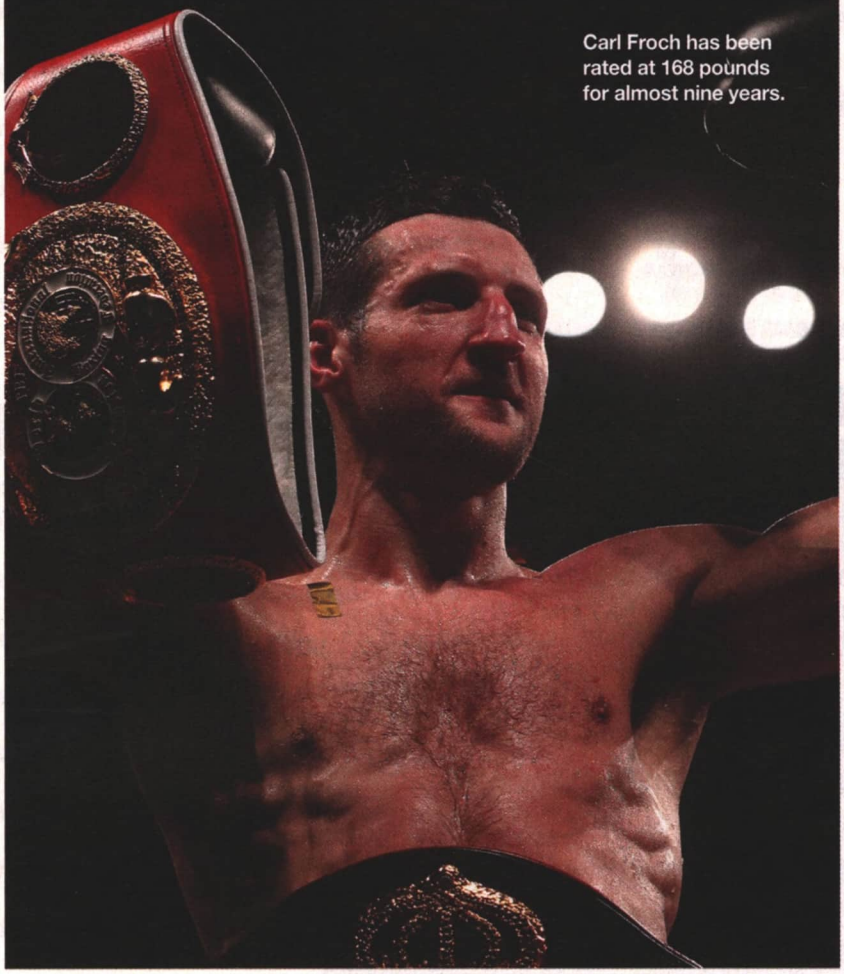
6 MANNY PACQUIAO, WELTERWEIGHT (57-6-2)

6 XIONG ZHAO ZHONG, STRAWWEIGHT (25-6-1)

FOCUS ON . . .

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

A breakdown of THE RING Top 10 in one division each month, plus a list of fighters on the cusp of breaking through. This month: the 168-pounders.



Carl Froch has been rated at 168 pounds for almost nine years.

MOST WEEKS RATED: CARL FROCH **466**

FEWEST WEEKS RATED: BADOU JACK **2**

OLDEST: FROCH **37**

YOUNGEST: GILBERTO RAMIREZ **23**

MOST FIGHTS: ROBERT STIEGLITZ **52**

FEWEST FIGHTS: JAMES DEGALE, JACK **21**

HIGHEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: RAMIREZ **100 PERCENT**

LOWEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: FELIX STURM **85 PERCENT**

MOST KOS: ARTHUR ABRAHAM **28**

FEWEST KOS: JACK **12**

LONGEST CURRENT WINNING STREAK: RAMIREZ **31 FIGHTS**

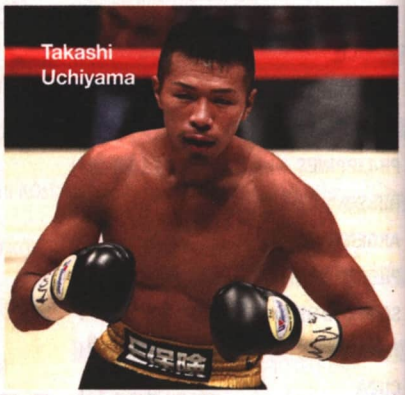
ON THE POUND-FOR-POUND LIST: FROCH **NO. 6**

TITLEHOLDERS IN THE TOP 10: ABRAHAM **(WBO)**, JACK **(WBC)**

ON THE CUSP (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER): FEDOR CHUDINOV, JESSE HART, CHRISTOPHER REBRASSE, CALLUM SMITH, TYRON ZEUGE

OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes.



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LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: SERGEY KOVALEV
MIDDLEWEIGHT: GENNADY GOLOVKIN
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: TAKASHI UCHIYAMA
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
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FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: NAOYA INOUE
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

Corona Extra

BOXING

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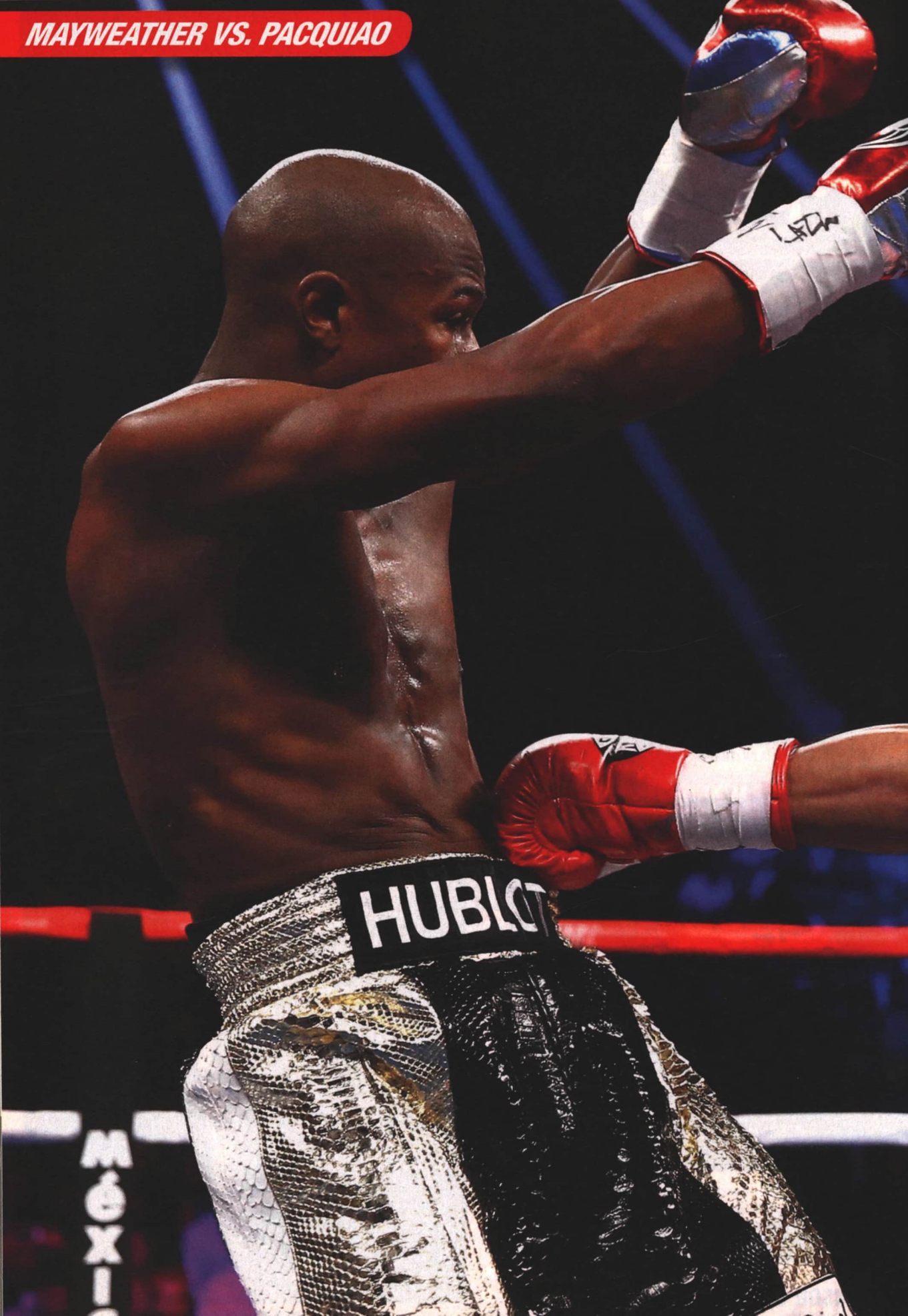
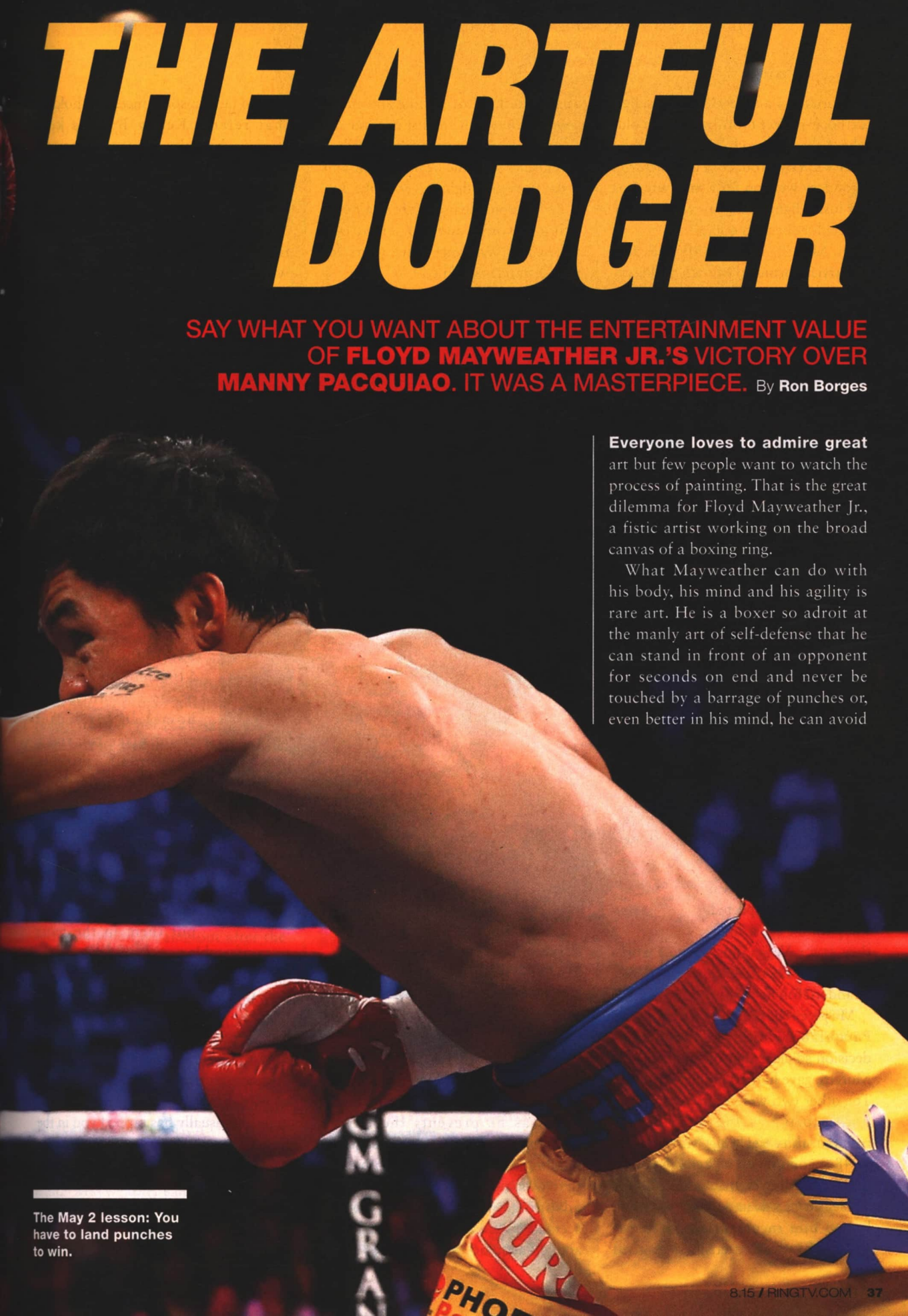

HUBLOT

THE ARTFUL DODGER

SAY WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT THE ENTERTAINMENT VALUE OF **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.'S** VICTORY OVER **MANNY PACQUIAO**. IT WAS A MASTERPIECE. By **Ron Borges**

Everyone loves to admire great art but few people want to watch the process of painting. That is the great dilemma for Floyd Mayweather Jr., a fistic artist working on the broad canvas of a boxing ring.

What Mayweather can do with his body, his mind and his agility is rare art. He is a boxer so adroit at the manly art of self-defense that he can stand in front of an opponent for seconds on end and never be touched by a barrage of punches or, even better in his mind, he can avoid



The May 2 lesson: You have to land punches to win.

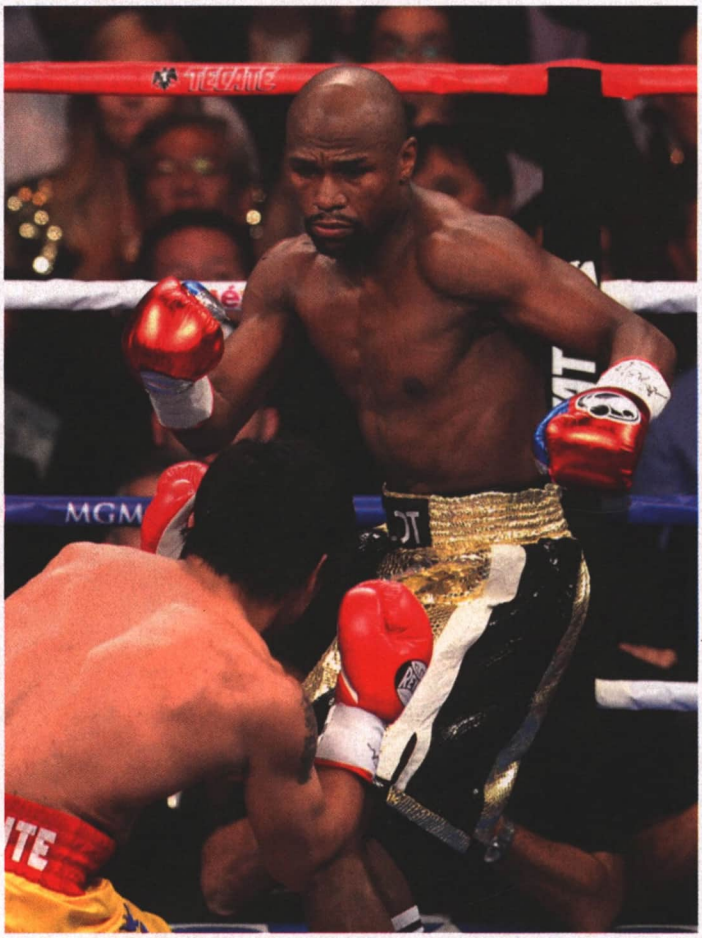
that situation altogether with angles, textbook-perfect footwork and an old-school shoulder roll. What offense he creates is a by-product of his defense, a secondary weapon for a man who has not lost a fight in 20 years. Some feel has seldom been in one, either.

On May 2, "Money" Mayweather, the artist formerly known as Pretty Boy Floyd, entered the ring at the MGM Grand Garden Arena to face Manny Pacquiao in the richest boxing match in the sport's history. Estimates of $400 million or more in total revenue and a $74 million live gate that would break the Nevada record by $54 million made this much more than a prize fight. It was a happening, the kind of event that attracted people who knew little or nothing about the sport but much about making the scene, regardless of where it is. On May 2, the place to be seen was as close to the ring where Mayweather was performing as one could afford.

But what they saw once they got there was not what they expected. They didn't see a fight, they saw a Vegas illusionist at work. They saw David Copperfield, not Evander Holyfield.

Mayweather easily outpointed Pacquiao, winning a unanimous decision so clear that one judge, Dave Moretti, gave him 10 of the 12 rounds. The other two were more reasonable, both scoring it 116-112 (8-4 in rounds), thus elevating Mayweather to 48-0 and unified welterweight and junior middleweight champion. Yet when all was said and done, the crowd booed him incessantly, lay critics throughout the Twittersphere groused about the lack of action and many sportswriters lamented that while the event had broken revenue records it had also broken the heart of fight fans because, well, a fight never broke out.

Even former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson waded in critically, tweeting, "We waited five years for that ... #underwhelmed."



Mayweather: "I'm 10 steps ahead of any fighter."

But that, of course, is Mayweather's gift. Like Willie Pep, Winky Wright and Pernell Whitaker before him, Mayweather doesn't so much win fights as he prevents them from breaking out. This he did to Pacquiao, blunting his attacking style with a jab that was aided by a five-inch reach advantage, movement that often seemed to mesmerize the normally active Pacquiao into a state of stasis and, to be fair, some incessant holding that referee Kenny Bayless kept warning him about but took no real action to prevent.

Time and again in the first half of the fight, Pacquiao seemingly had Mayweather pinned on the ropes or in the corner but he seldom attacked him with the savage fury he had against guys like Antonio Margarito, Oscar De La Hoya, Miguel Cotto, Shane Mosley and Ricky Hatton. The reason for that, in Mayweather's opinion, was obvious. He was unsure exactly what was waiting for him if he did and so he didn't often risk an all-out assault.

"I'm 10 steps ahead of any fighter," Mayweather crowed not long after being handed a check for $100,000,000 (that's $100 million for those of you counting at home) in his locker room after the fight, with much more to come. "Other fighters got engaged in fighting toe-to-toe with him. That's what he wants. It's not what I do. I'm going to put any fighter in discomfort. I want to put them in the most uncomfortable position as possible."

What Mayweather does is envelop you in a fog. You see him through the mist but when you arrive he isn't there. You spy him over in that corner down yonder, vulnerable, but when you beat your way through that fog of war there is no war. The enemy is gone and usually has tapped you in the nose or on the cheek or in the belly as he was departing.

Mayweather is as much a fencer as a boxer. His epee is his long, straight jab and in the case of Pacquiao, a straight right hand that kept catching the then-

WBO welterweight champion just often enough to make him cautious. The cautious opponent will never beat Mayweather. Then again, neither will the bold. What is required is a combination of patience and pressure and Pacquiao (57-6-3, 38 knockouts) did not have enough of either.

He also didn't have enough speed or, it would later be learned, a right hand. That had been taken from him by a rotator cuff injury sustained in training that he'd hoped would be numbed into submission with a shot of painkiller before the fight. He was denied that not by Mayweather but by the Nevada State Athletic Commission because they said they had not been informed Pacquiao was damaged goods in time to verify it.

In fact, his camp had checked the "NO" box on a health questionnaire before the fight that asked if he had any type of shoulder, elbow or hand injury. Promoter Bob Arum raised this issue after the fight, trying to make the case his fighter had been rudely treated, but the fact is no one suggested he would need such a shot until he arrived in his dressing room 3½ hours before the fight.

This was not the Commission denying a request on a technicality. It was a case of miscalculation on the part of the Pacquiao camp. They were too late. It wouldn't be the last time.

Mayweather was unmoved by such talk when it came out after the fight, not criticizing Pacquiao, who seemed embarrassed it had become public even though 48 hours later it would be announced he would have rotator cuff surgery that will sideline him between six months and a year. Instead of criticizing his fallen foe, Mayweather simply pointed out his 38-year-old bones didn't feel that great either.

"I had injuries also going into this fight," Mayweather said. "Both of my arms were injured. Both of my hands were injured. But I found a way to win. I was the better man and the

Mayweather doesn't always command everyone's attention.

REPORT CARD

THE MAIN EVENT

C

Mayweather gave a typically masterful performance against the one opponent some believed could give him some trouble. Masterful doesn't mean entertaining, though. Zzzzzzzzzzz.

MAYWEATHER

A

Mayweather was Mayweather, a defensive wizard who made a future Hall of Famer look average. The grade would've been A+ if he'd taken a few risks just for fun.

PACQUIAO

C

Pacquiao tried over and over again to get within range but simply couldn't solve Mayweather's defensive riddles. The shoulder-injury disclosure (excuse?) afterward was regrettable.

MAYWEATHER'S TRAINER

Floyd Mayweather Sr.

B

Senior helped his son devise an effective game plan. Dad evidently pushed son to be more aggressive during the fight, though. Junior didn't listen and won easily.

PACQUIAO'S TRAINER

Freddie Roach

C

Roach admonished Pacquiao to be patient for fear he'd get caught with right hands. Fair enough. But he should've pushed his charge to be more aggressive when he fell behind.

THE JUDGES

A+

Dave Moretti, Burt Clements and Glenn Feldman scored it 118-110, 116-112 and 116-112, respectively. I thought Mayweather won between eight and 10 rounds.

THE REFEREE

A

Was Kenny Bayless in the ring for Mayweather-Pacquiao? Didn't notice him, which is the way it should be. There was a reason he was selected to work the fight.

THE ATMOSPHERE

A-

The star-studded crowd was pumped to be at the MGM Grand. And they were active, chanting Pacquiao's name throughout. That's saying something given the lack of drama.

THE UNDERCARD

C-

I enjoy watching Vasyl Lomachenko and Leo Santa Cruz fight but not so much when they face marginal opponents. Of course, with this main event, no undercard was necessary.

- Michael Rosenthal

more calculating fighter. I will always find a way to win. I'm a winner."

That was obvious from the outset of the promotion, when Mayweather won 60 percent of what would become a record-shattering take that will earn him $180 million or more when all the revenue streams reach his accountants. It was the same in the ring, where he not only gave Pacquiao few openings to exploit but also outthrew a guy who averaged between 60 and 75 punches a round for most of his career.

Daunted by doubts only the fog of war can create, Pacquiao on average threw barely half that (35 per round according to CompuBox statistics) and landed an anemic 6.8 punches per round. Mayweather's previous 13 opponents landed an average of 19 percent of their punches. It was the same story for Pacquiao, meaning he'd been no more accurate trying to land on Mayweather than any of the ham bones who had preceded him.

Surprisingly, Mayweather outworked him, although barely, 435-429, but the big discrepancy came where Pacquiao's injury made him most vulnerable. Pacquiao, a southpaw, landed only 18 of 193 of his right jabs and as the rounds wore on and the pain increased he threw the right hook off it less and less, not that it was landing anyway.

Mayweather, by contrast, threw 267 jabs and landed 67, a 25 percent connection rate that was enough to stop Pacquiao's forward progress and force him to reset. As he did, Mayweather used his lateral movement and balletic footwork to time and again spin away like a child playing tag with an elderly grandfather who can't quite catch him and after a while doesn't really want to continue his pursuit all that vigorously.

"I knew I had him in the first round," Mayweather claimed. "I always knew I was the smarter fighter. His footwork compared to my footwork is different. Everything is a calculated move.

"My Dad was on my ass. He kept saying, 'You're not doing enough' but in my heart I knew what I was doing. He was constantly saying pick up the pace. Manny was throwing punches and the crowd was screaming, so my father felt it was extremely close, but a lot of times he was applying pressure but not landing punches.

Mayweather was ready for anything Pacquiao threw at him.

"I kept my jab in his face. I got a 72-inch reach. He got 67. I gotta use that. Judges don't go by punches thrown. Judges go by shots landed. I knew in my heart I was beating him easily. People said I was scared [of Pacquiao]. They said Floyd was a coward. I made you guys eat your words. The non-believers Floyd turned into believers. Go write that tomorrow. All you guys who wrote negative articles about me, I'm going to wake up early in the morning and read [your] stories."

If he did he was probably disappointed because the bulk of them talked not of admiration for his boxing skills but despair over the paucity of engagement between the two, that and the fact Pacquiao was damaged goods and perhaps should never have been allowed to fight in the first place.

Mayweather's only true moment of concern came in the fourth round when Pacquiao stung him with a hard left hand with 1:25 to go that caught him flush and snapped his head back. Mayweather stumbled back to the ropes and Pacquiao flew at him, the frustration of chasing him for five years and four rounds seeming to boil over.

He nailed Mayweather along the ropes with a four-punch combination to the rib cage and finally a hard right to the head with just under a minute left that led Mayweather to shake his head "No," the universal sign meaning "Oh, no." That moment sent the highly partisan sellout crowd into a frenzy but soon Mayweather had things so under control that by late in Round 11, Pacquiao clapped his fists together as if to say, "Come on! Let's fight."

As the bell tolled, Mayweather looked back over his shoulder at Pacquiao with a smug stare and mockingly slammed his gloves together in return. That may have been the hardest punch he threw all night but Pacquiao's frustrated call and Mayweather's dismissive response made obvious what this meant to both and which man had the upper hand.

"Yeah, he hit me with a solid shot there," Mayweather admitted later. "I hadn't fought since last September. He'd fought in, when, November? He was sharper than me. I knew he was going to push it and win some rounds.

"He had some moments in the fight but I kept him on the outside. I wasn't getting hit with a lot of shots until I sat in the pocket. That's when he would land a lot of shots. I get hit with a shot and, damn, it wakes me up."

What this fight, and the hard preparation that preceded it, awakened inside the 38-year-old Mayweather was twofold. He announced he would soon relinquish his seven world titles – RING, WBA, WBC and WBO welterweight and RING, WBA and WBC junior middleweight – both because he no longer needs them and to give younger fighters an opportunity to fight over them.

That decision seemed part of a larger one, the decision to bring his career to a close soon. He announced at the post-fight press conference that he would fight once more, in September, in the final installment in his six-fight contract with Showtime.

Asked if his next opponent might be England's Amir Khan or American Keith Thurman, Mayweather, exhausted physically and drained mentally, reeled as if Pacquiao was coming at him one last time.

"It hasn't even been two hours and you want to throw me right back into battle?" he asked. "Can I enjoy my victory? Please?"

He must've had his fill of enjoyment and a change of heart. A few days later, he sent a text to broadcaster Stephen A. Smith suggesting he might give Pacquiao a rematch after his return from shoulder surgery.

Surely he would enjoy a Khan or Thurman promotion more than he did the build-up for the Pacquiao fight, which often portrayed him as the Evil side in a battle of Good vs. Evil. The week of the fight, his three domestic violence convictions and six charges were repeatedly brought up by some in the media, a few questioning whether he should have been licensed to fight even though he had served a two-month sentence in county jail last year and has not been criminally charged since.

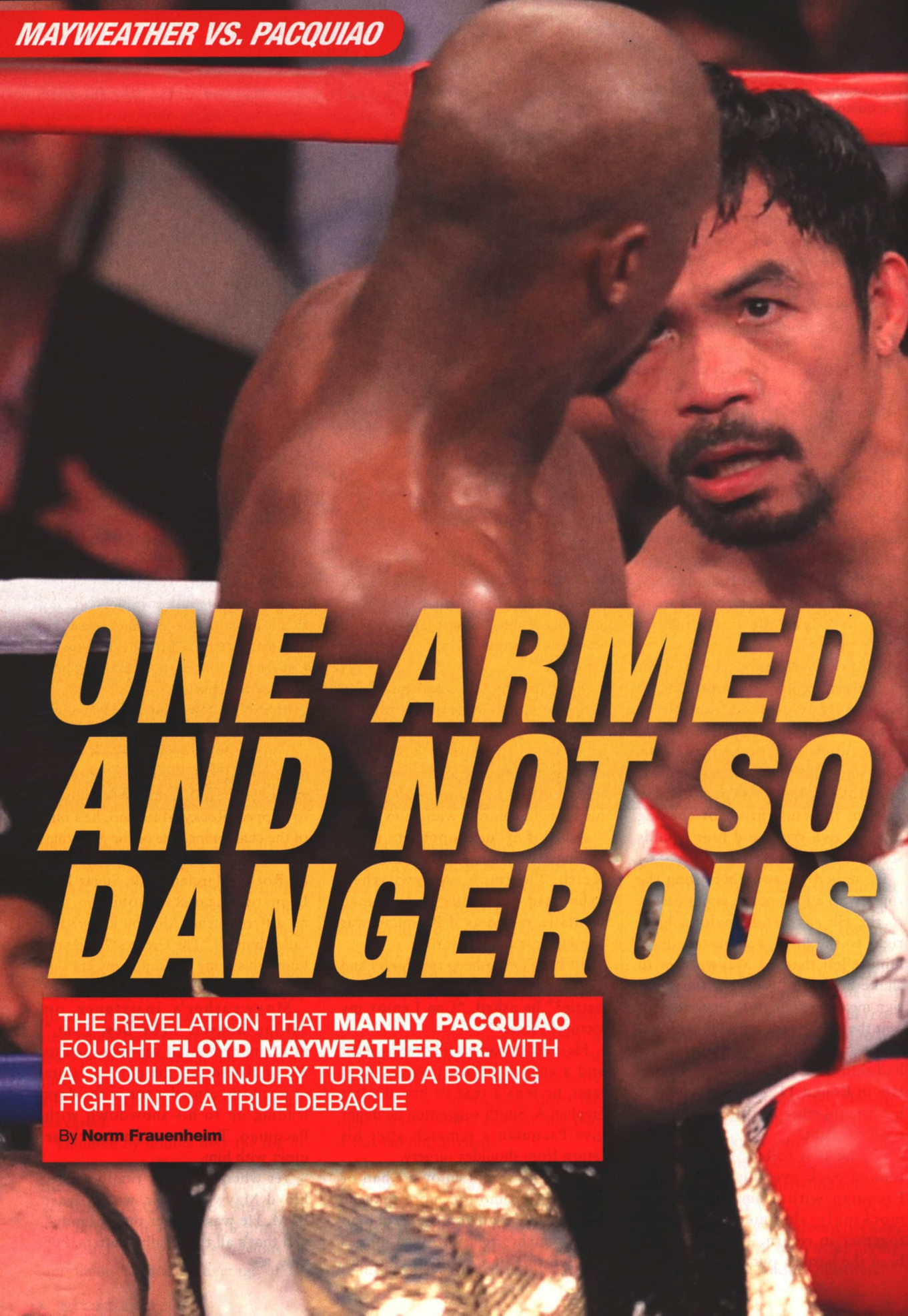
Although a win in September would leave him one shy of passing Rocky Marciano's 49-0 record, Mayweather admitted it was becoming more difficult to muster the enthusiasm to go to the gym day after day to prepare for fights he no longer needs, to earn money that will only gather dust atop the piles he's already raked in.

"My last fight is in September and then it's time for me to hang it up," Mayweather said immediately after the fight, before he sent the text to Smith. "Almost 40 years old now. I've been in the sport 19 years and have been champion for 18 years. I gotta do things my way. At one time I loved the sport of boxing. Through the years I lost the love of the sport. I don't think I'll miss the sport.

"I didn't come into this boxing business, the boxing game, to outdo anyone. I didn't come in to break a guy's record. I just wanted to be me. If it was going to happen, it was going to happen. Rocky Marciano, he's one of the champions, one of the guys that paved the way for me to be where I'm at. Rocky Marciano, Ali, Sugar Ray Leonard, Sugar Ray Robinson. It's no different from Ali, you know? He called himself "The Greatest" and you know, this is my era and in my era I'm TBE."

Mayweather's insistence on calling himself "The Best Ever," proclaiming himself superior even to Ali or Robinson, the patron saints of pugilism, caused a stir in the days leading up to his showdown with Pacquiao. Tyson was among those upset with him.

Yet when the night finally came, Floyd Mayweather Jr. was at least BTM. He was "Better than Manny" and that's all that really matters. For now.



ONE-ARMED AND NOT SO DANGEROUS

THE REVELATION THAT **MANNY PACQUIAO** FOUGHT **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.** WITH A SHOULDER INJURY TURNED A BORING FIGHT INTO A TRUE DEBACLE

By **Norm Frauenheim**

Manny Pacquiao or one of his handlers checked "no" when asked on a pre-fight form whether he had a shoulder injury.

It was the day after and there was no remedy for what had happened on a night when boxing promised a Super Bowl but delivered a super bore.

Manny Pacquiao's right arm was in a sling, evidence of a shoulder injury not disclosed until after fans had spent $100 apiece for a pay-per-view telecast of a bout that enriched Floyd Mayweather Jr., Pacquiao, HBO, Showtime and promoters but enraged many who bought into the hype.

If Mayweather's unanimous decision over Pacquiao was the Fight of the Century, it's going to be a long 85 years. But there it was, a bad hangover that, for the moment, was symbolized by Pacquiao's suspended arm, as immobile as it was useless throughout 12 rounds against Mayweather.

That's not to say a two-armed Pacquiao would have fared any better than the one-armed version did against Mayweather's 5-inch advantage in reach and elusive artistry. Trouble is, we may never know for sure.

Proof of Pacquiao's shoulder injury was there a day after the sling appeared. Dr. Neal ElAttrache, surgeon for the Los Angeles Dodgers and Lakers star Kobe Bryant, announced that Pacquiao would undergo surgery for "a significant tear" in his rotator cuff. There were estimates that he could be out from six months to a year, depending on the source.

The wide range of how long he would be on the shelf was a reflection of a contentious fight week, which included astronomical prices for everything from the bout to a beer, calls for a boycott by national pundits and controversy over media access. Credential-gate included headlines about whether Mayweather's publicity team had or had not denied credentials to CNN's Rachel Nichols, ESPN's Michelle Beadle and anybody else who had questioned the welterweight champion about his record of domestic abuse.

It was big news within the media

tent but not so much among fans, who have about as much respect for the media as they do for the contents at the bottom of a spit bucket. Still, conflicting headlines set a tone. Beware: The bigger the money, the bigger the lies. The money – $180 million and maybe more for Mayweather and at least $100 million for Pacquiao – was bigger than ever.

The confusion and mistrust continued to mount, even when copies of the scorecards were delivered to press row. Mayweather was a 118-110 winner on one and a 116-112 winner on the other two. Not much argument there.

But he was listed under the "R" – red corner. Pacquiao's scores were under the "B" – blue corner. But the opposite was true. Pacquiao was in the red corner, Mayweather in the blue.

It was probably an administrative error by the Nevada State Athletic Commission, which later corrected it. By then, however, even a typo was another piece for the conspiracy crowd that can't look at a grassy knoll without seeing another assassin.

"I thought I won the fight," Pacquiao said.

The Filipino Congressman was called delusional for making that comment. Then again, he does know the difference between red and blue.

But it's the shoulder injury that makes everything about the fight problematic, casting doubt on his credibility and on a lot of other people attached to a promotion that generated record revenue and worldwide skepticism.

CompuBox punch stats say clearly that something was wrong. Pacquiao, known for his volume of punches from countless angles, attempted 429 punches, his lowest output in any 12-round fight tracked by CompuBox.

The southpaw landed his right-handed jab only 18 times out of 193 thrown. He connected at a 19 percent rate of accuracy overall, meaning he would have had a hard time hitting himself in the face. The absence of any real accuracy made him look as awkward as he ever has.

Mayweather is a good escape artist but it's no secret that his 38-year-old feet don't carry him out of harm's way with the agility and speed that they once did. But the well-documented erosion in his feet and legs didn't matter.

It's fair to argue that Mayweather's TBE claim on being the The Best Ever and THE prices that were The Highest Ever should have motivated him to pursue a stoppage of a sub-standard foe. In fact, his dad and trainer, Floyd Sr., exhorted his son to be more aggressive in the middle to late rounds. But Floyd Jr. ignored him.

That's another story, although it may never be told if Pacquiao's surgery keeps him sidelined for a year. In the wake of news about Pacquiao's surgery, Mayweather told ESPN's Stephen A. Smith in a text that he'd be willing to do a rematch but later changed his mind, calling Pacquiao a "sore loser."

Mayweather also said he plans to retire after a September fight, the final one in his six-bout deal with Showtime. If Pacquiao is on the shelf for a year, Mayweather will already be in retirement. He could be talked out of it, of course. But why would anybody want to see a rematch between two fighters at or beyond 40 after what happened on May 2 when Pacquiao was 36 and Mayweather 38?

Mayweather's rematch talk appears to be as much of a headline grab as the fight was a money grab. But the circumstances surrounding the shoulder injury go straight to the heart of what fans can believe and what can they can expect when they buy a ticket or pay-per-view.

Fans and media didn't know about the injury until the post-fight news conference. The Nevada State Athletic Commission didn't know about it until a few hours before the opening bell, according to Francisco Aguilar, commission chairman, who said he would not allow Pacquiao an injection of Toradol, an anti-

'SHOULDER-GATE'

A LOOK AT HOW THE CHAIN OF EVENTS RELATED TO MANNY PACQUIAO'S SHOULDER INJURY UNFOLDED.

April 4: Probable date that Pacquiao injures his right shoulder during sparring.

April 7: Pacquiao's reps inquire about legal remedies, according to Travis Tygart of USADA. Around the same time, rumors are circulating that Pacquiao has taken a break from sparring.

April 17: Tygart is informed of an unspecified shoulder injury.

May 1: Pacquiao is given a pre-fight questionnaire before the weigh-in and lists Lidocaine and Toradol as medications he is taking but checks 'no' next to a question asking whether he has a shoulder injury.

May 2: The Nevada State Athletic Commission finds out about the injury only a few hours before the fight, according to NSAC chairman Francisco Aguilar. Aguilar refuses to let Pacquiao have an injection of Toradol before he steps into the ring.

May 2: Pacquiao later says the injury was aggravated in the fourth round of the fight. He also suggests that someone had tipped off Mayweather and that he pulled on his right arm during the fight.

May 2: The fans and media find out about the injury at the post-fight press conference.

May 4: Surgeon Neal ElAttrache makes a statement confirming a "significant tear" in Pacquiao's rotator cuff and indicates that surgery is required.

May 5: A class-action lawsuit is filed against Pacquiao and others in Las Vegas because he failed to disclose the injury. Others in multiple states soon follow.

Pacquiao said he aggravated his shoulder injury during the fight.

inflammatory, before the fight.

The drug is not banned. But Aguilar and NSAC Chief Executive Bob Bennett said that they had no proof of Pacquiao's injury. According to Bennett, Pacquiao checked "no" next to a question on a routine form asking whether he had suffered a shoulder injury.

The questionnaire was presented to him May 1 before the official weigh-in. It included a "yes" when asked if he had been taking any medication. Lidocaine and Toradol were among the drugs mentioned and evidently approved by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which oversaw drug testing for the fight.

Pacquiao adviser Michael Koncz said he filled out the questionnaire. But Bennett said Pacquiao filled out the document, which was also signed and dated by the Filipino Congressman.

"Our job is to protect the health and safety of fighters and the integrity of the sport," sad Aguilar, who also said he will further investigate in a probe that could result in Pacquiao being suspended and/or fined. "We expect our fighters to be forthright."

A complication, not without irony, involves USADA. Negotiations for the fight five to six years ago broke down when Pacquiao balked at Mayweather's demand for testing.

"It was not an anti-doping issue," Travis Tygart of USADA said. "The real question is why his camp checked 'no' on the disclosure. Either they made a terrible mistake to not follow the rules or they were trying not to give information to the other side."

Tygart said he was contacted by Pacquiao's representatives on April 7 about what remedies were legal under anti-doping rules. That was at the same time that there were news stories that Pacquiao had taken a break from sparring at the Wild Card Boxing Club because he was

over-trained. The injury is believed to have happened on April 4 while sparring. Tygart said he was told of an unspecified shoulder injury on April 17.

In talking to Filipino reporters in his Las Vegas hotel suite on May 3, Pacquiao said a postponement of the fight was discussed. He said a doctor told him to rest the shoulder for 30 to 40 days, according to an interview that can be seen on Rappler.com

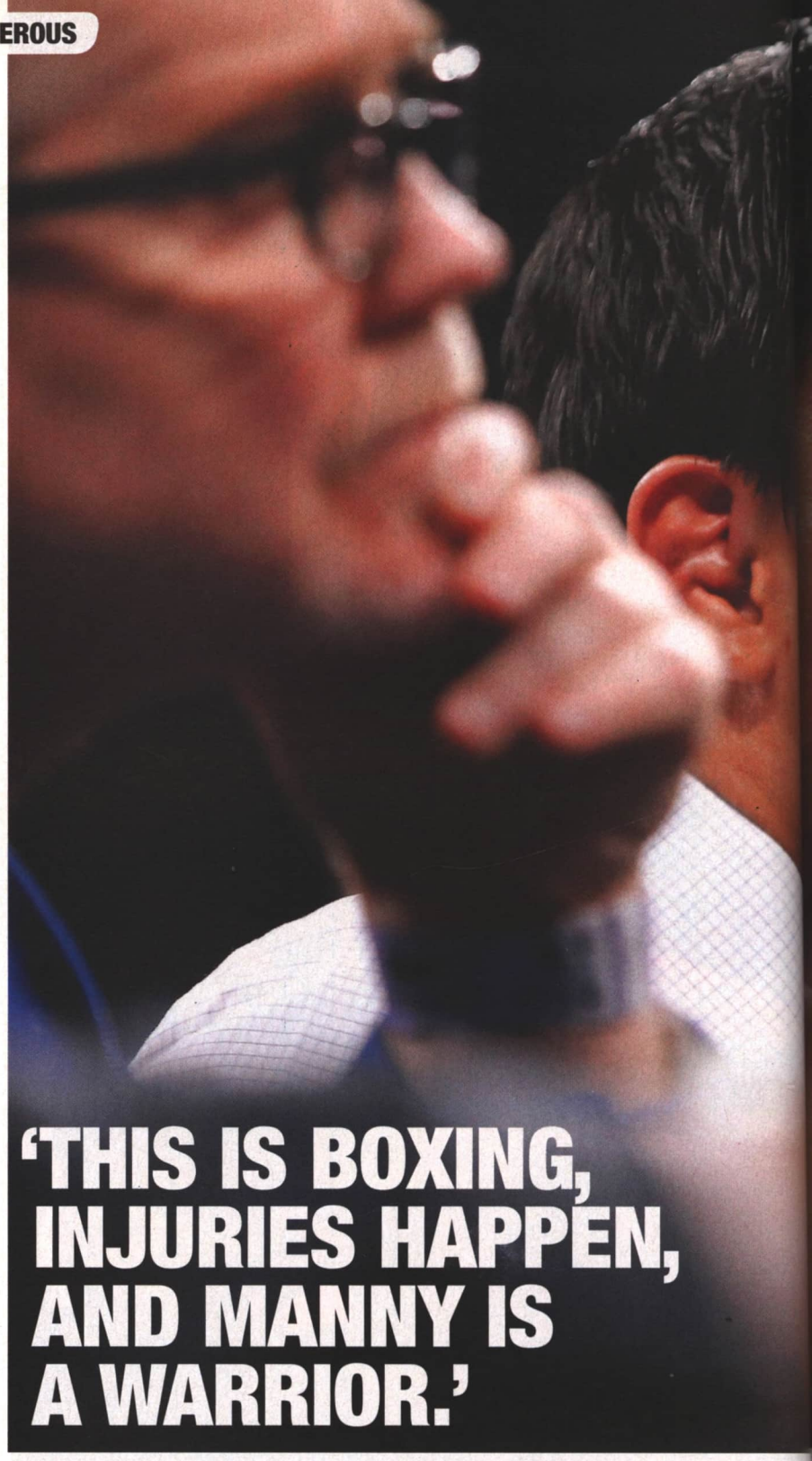
According to a joint statement released by Pacquiao and promoter Bob Arum's Top Rank on May 4, it was decided "with short rest, treatments, and close monitoring, Manny could train and, on May 2, step into the ring. ...

"Manny's advisers notified the United States Anti-Doping Agency of the shoulder injury and the treatments being proposed by the doctors during training and on fight night. USADA spoke to Manny's doctors twice, investigated, and confirmed in writing that the proposed treatments, if used, were completely allowed. The medication approved for fight night was a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (Toradol). Manny continued to train and his shoulder improved, though not 100 percent. This is boxing, injuries happen, and Manny is a warrior. Again, in consultation with his doctors, promoter and advisers, Manny decided to proceed with the fight anticipating that he could receive his pre-fight treatment. That specific treatment had been approved by USADA in writing at least 5 days before the fight."

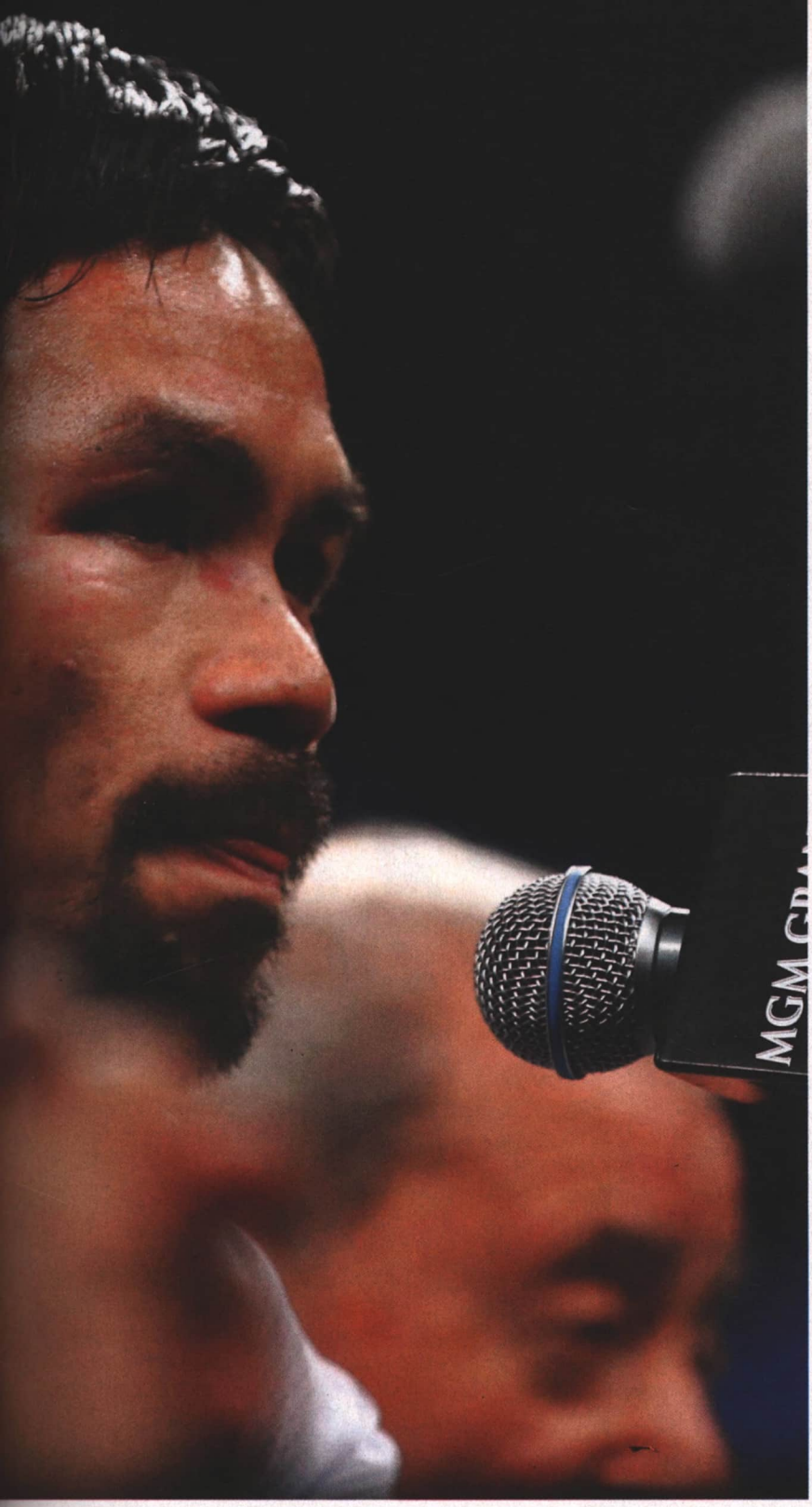
Pacquiao, Koncz and Arum said they believed that he could continue with the medication because it had been disclosed on the Commission's questionnaire. If they had also disclosed the injury in a timely manner, Aguilar said, the Commission would have approved the medication. A few hours before the opening bell was too late, he said.

There are theories as to why the Pacquiao camp did not disclose the injury. There was the money. Negotiations between the rival camps were difficult. It's not hard to imagine that the whole deal might have fallen apart if there had been any kind of postponement. Everybody from HBO to Showtime, from Top Rank to Mayweather Promotions, from Arum to Mayweather adviser Al Haymon, was eager to get their piece of unprecedented revenue.

Then there are the fighters themselves. They're more reluctant to disclose injuries than New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick. Inside



'THIS IS BOXING, INJURIES HAPPEN, AND MANNY IS A WARRIOR.'



Pacquiao: "I don't want to make alibis or complain or anything but ..."

information of an injury can change a fight. In fact, Pacquiao believes that's exactly what happened. He said that Mayweather knew about his shoulder. He alleged sabotage.

"Someone leaked it from the gym," he told Filipino reporters in the Rappler.com interview. "Did you see when he was pulling my arm? Because he knew. He was pulling it, did you see? Because he knew."

Pacquiao says he aggravated the injury in the fourth, ironically his best round. That's when he landed a left that sent a dazed Mayweather into the ropes in a hasty retreat.

"It's part of the game," Pacquiao said during the post-fight news conference. "I don't want to make alibis or complain or anything but it's hard to fight one-handed."

The question is whether the public has a right to know. If fans had been aware of the injury, would they have paid $100 for pay-per-view or five figures for a seat inside Las Vegas' MGM Grand? Would anybody have bet on Pacquiao at busy books up and down The Strip?

"Athletes always fight hurt," Arum said. "We felt that the work that was done on the shoulder during training would give him the opportunity to use the right hand. We were disappointed when the injury kicked up again but this is always the case with sports.

"You get guys injured in training. He then deals with the injury, he thinks he's conquered it and then he gets re-injured in the game. It happens in football. It happens in any sport."

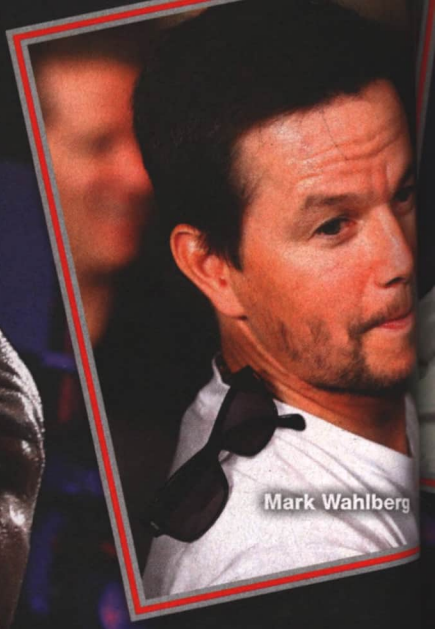
But some fans think it shouldn't happen anymore.

A lawsuit seeking $5 million in damages was filed in Clark County, Nevada. Plaintiffs Stephane Vanel and Kami Rahbaran are listed as Clark County residents who purchased "tickets and/or the pay-per-view event."

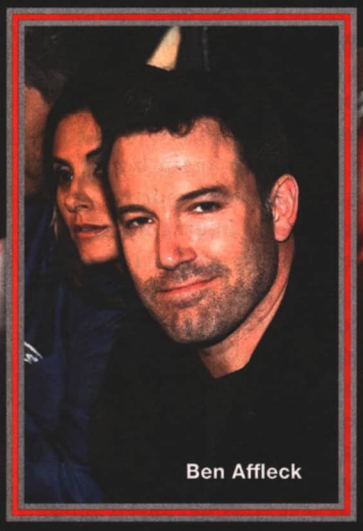
The filing in Las Vegas' U.S. District Court is called a potential class-action suit. It names Pacquiao, Koncz, Arum and Top Rank President Todd DuBoef as defendants. The suit alleges: "All members of the Class relied upon the misrepresentations and the non-disclosures in purchasing tickets; purchasing pay per view showings, and in making wagers on the Event." A number of similar suits followed.

This Fight of the Century was just getting started.

Jamie Foxx



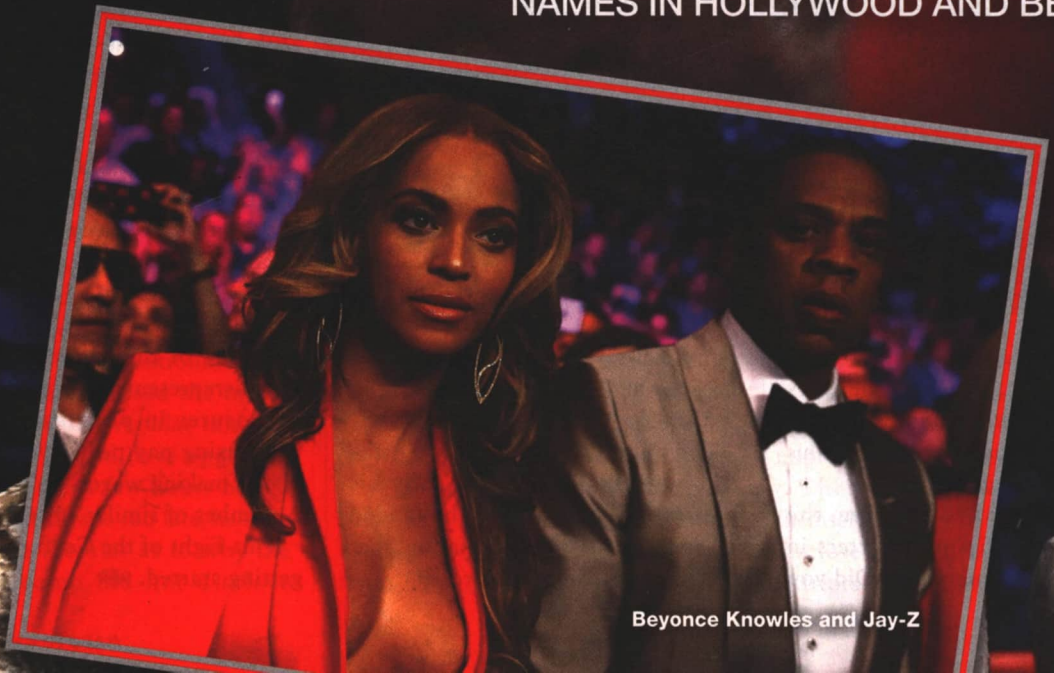
Mark Wahlberg



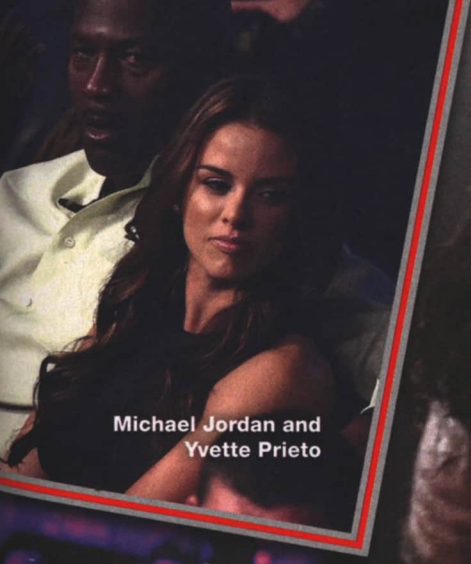
Ben Affleck

STAR POWER

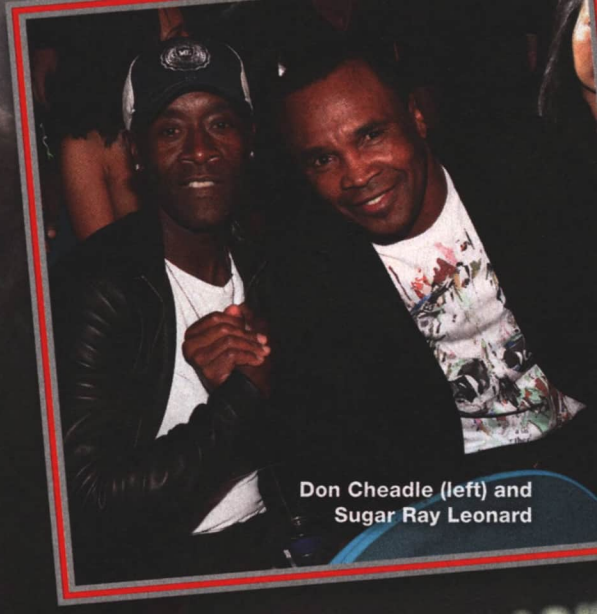
THE FIGHT OF THE CENTURY BROUGHT OUT SOME OF THE BIGGEST NAMES IN HOLLYWOOD AND BEYOND



Beyonce Knowles and Jay-Z

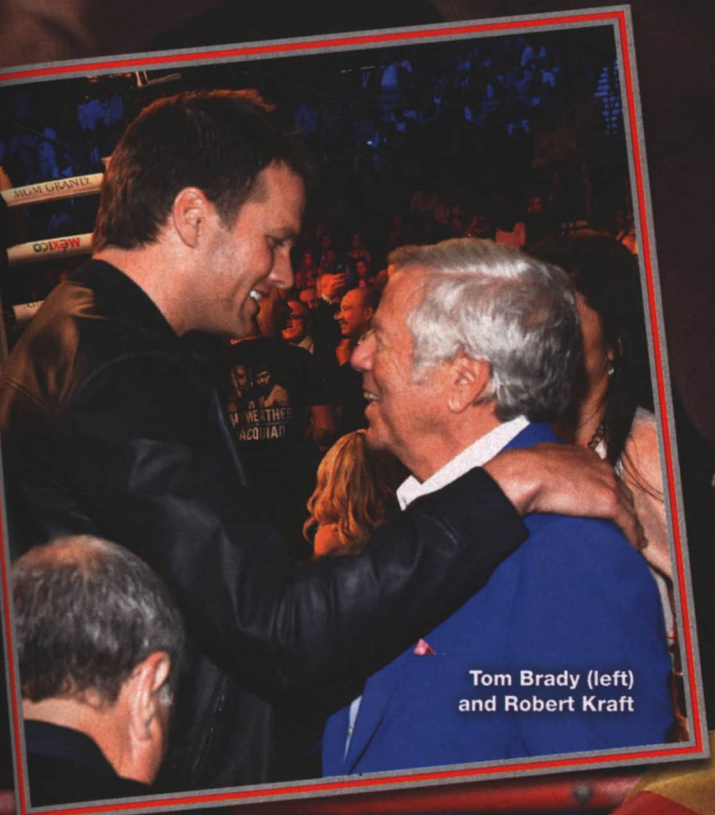


Michael Jordan and Yvette Prieto

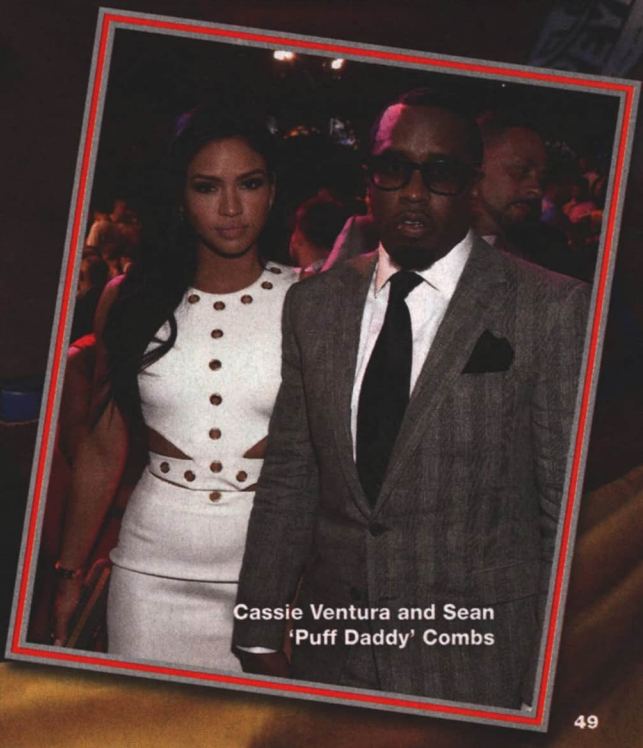


Don Cheadle (left) and Sugar Ray Leonard

Donald and Melania Trump



Tom Brady (left) and Robert Kraft



Cassie Ventura and Sean 'Puff Daddy' Combs

Jon Voight

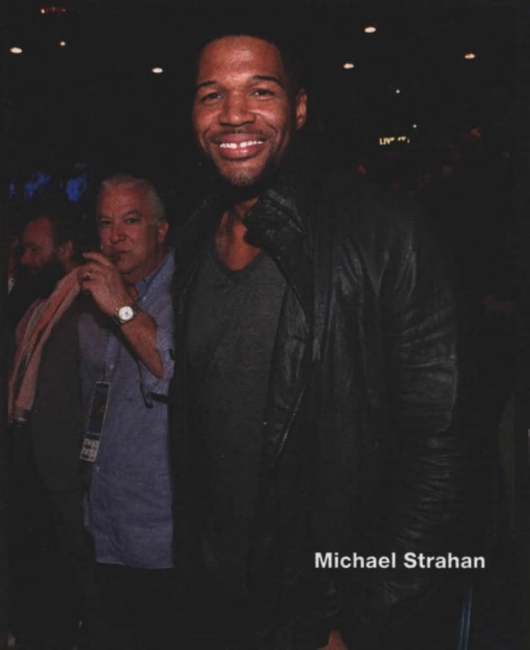
Mike and Kiki Tyson

Nicole Scherzinger

Drew Barrymore

Doug E. Fresh

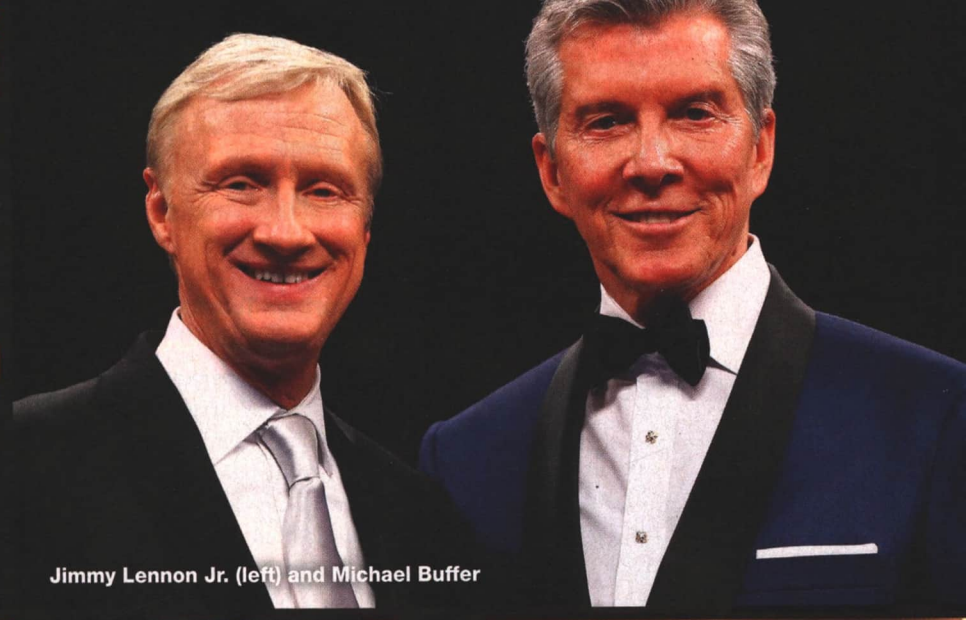
Bella Gonzalez and Shane Mosley



Michael Strahan

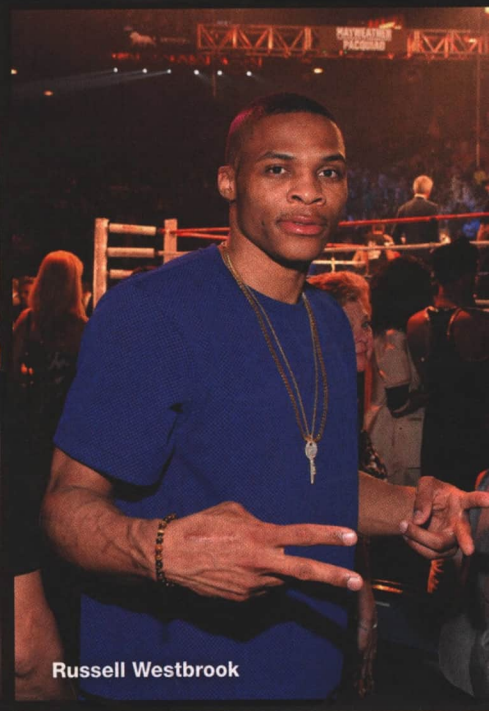
Nicki Minaj

Charlotte McKinney



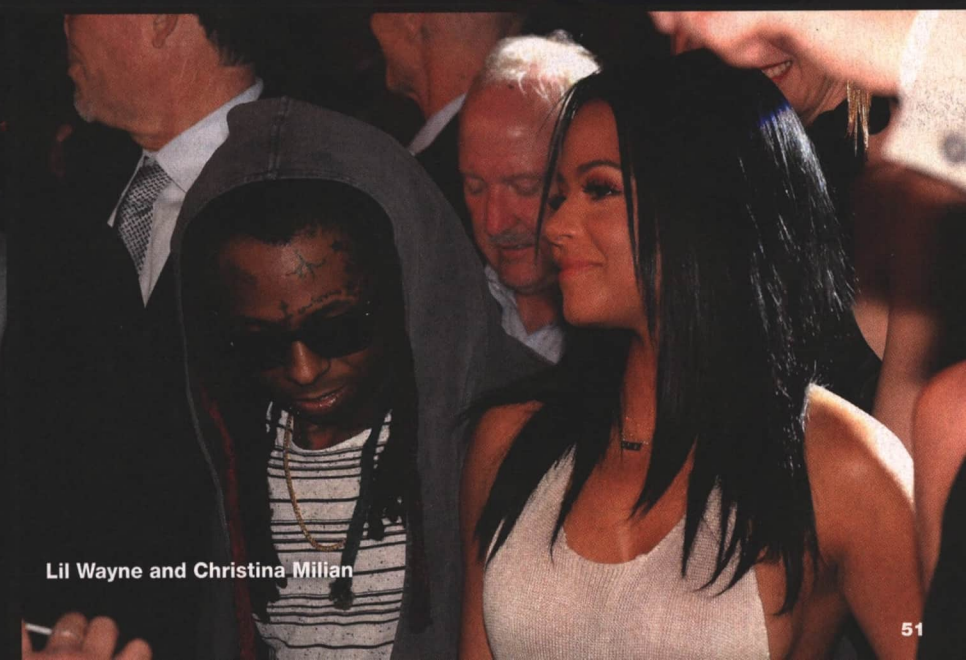
Jimmy Lennon Jr. (left) and Michael Buffer

Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf



Russell Westbrook

Dave and Elaine Chappelle



Lil Wayne and Christina Milian

THE GOOD FIGHT

A SECOND LOOK AT FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. By Springs Toledo

"The fans deserve to have a good fight," Manny Pacquiao said at the weigh-in. Floyd Mayweather Jr. was less congenial. "My frame of mind is to be smart," he said.

The smart fighter defeated the congenial fighter by at least eight rounds on May 2 in Las Vegas.

When Pacquiao was pressed about why he missed 81 percent of his punches, he shrugged his shoulders. "If he stays, I can hit him. If he's moving, I can't," he said. When trainer Freddie Roach was asked what he thought of the victorious Mayweather, he smirked and said, "I thought he ran very well."

Mayweather ran from Pacquiao no more than a matador runs from a bull. He teased him with a jab, jutting it out and waving it like a red flag. When Pacquiao began to charge, he stepped back to set a trap. When Pacquiao cornered him, he tied him up or spun off to center-ring.

Throughout the match, Mayweather's left mesmerized an oddly-subdued Pacquiao and his right stabbed him with surprising ease, though there would be no *coup de grâce*. It was a masterclass of athletic efficiency and strategic planning.

Mayweather showed the world what the sweet science looks like.

He was booed at the end of it. Many are still booing him – and the sweet science itself, at that. "Pay-per-snooze," sneered USA Today on Sunday. "A glorified sparring match." The Atlantic ran an article entitled "Boxing's Boring Night." Slate added an intensifier to its headline "... Very Boring Fight of the Century." ESPN's Skip Bayless scoffed at Mayweather's supposed "preening" and "smoke and mirrors." Drew Magary of Deadspin threw rocks from a safe perch, linking the champion's boxing style to his character and condemning both ("Floyd Mayweather Is a Coward").

Pundits spent the last 19 years sitting around thinking about topics and drinking coffee; Mayweather spent it fighting his way to the top of the most dangerous combat sport in the world. He did it mindfully because despite his "TBE" boasts and postures he is acutely aware of the fragility of the human body. He has built a career and a style around that awareness. It isn't cowardice.

Anyone who has spent enough time in a boxing gym has seen firsthand what happens to fighters who shrug off punches and grin like gargoyles instead of moving their heads – what happens after too many "good fights." Perhaps you've seen them too, the graying ones who shuffle into gyms, pitched forward like the brawlers they used to be. They come in alone, always alone, and stand at the periphery staring vacantly. More than money is memory – theirs and yours. Do you remember their ring wars? "That was a good fight," you say. Their eyes meet your eyes and the "thank you" sounds like boot-crunched leaves.

Mayweather has seen the ghosts in the afternoon, many times. His critics haven't. They don't see what he's seen. They don't even see *him*. They see Mayweather the obnoxious minstrel on television and want to lay a rose on Joe Louis' grave. They see court records about battered ex-girlfriends and traumatized child-witnesses and wonder if any of his fights were worth the price of admission. Some of them look incredulously at modern American culture itself; a culture twisted enough to not only produce but enrich lowlifes like him.

I was among them until Sunday morning, until I stepped away from the dueling narratives and took another look, a closer look. It began at the post-fight press conference when Mayweather asked us to remember his and our own humanity. "A lot of people tried to turn this fight into good versus evil," he said. "I didn't really care to entertain that. Manny has made mistakes just like I've made mistakes. No one is perfect. Each and every day we both need to grow and become better human beings."

That was sharper than any right he threw all night. And it landed flush.

He spoke for a full 35 minutes about his and really every fighter's need to defend himself, about the importance of being calculating on both sides of the ropes, mindful of maximizing investments and minimizing costs. He didn't blink when he said he will receive an eight-figure check every month for the rest of his life, though many former champions did. He mentioned two sponsors in the post-fight interview and earned $2 million for it. At the close of the press conference, a minion off camera handed him a Hublot watch. He deftly slipped it around his wrist, on camera, and walked away from the podium.

His words should echo in the ears of every aspiring boxer in every gym: "I have all my faculties. I invested my money extremely well."

Sometimes you'll see them at night, pitched forward and shuffling along under a street light. Behind them is cast the shadow of the brawler they used to be.

Behind them is Mayweather, watching them go.

He resolved long ago not to follow.

Springs Toledo is the author of The Gods of War: Boxing Essays (Tora, 2015)

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Alvarez-Kirkland fight occurred as we were preparing to go to press. Read more about the memorable encounter in the next issue.

NOW THAT'S A FIGHT

ALVAREZ AND KIRKLAND GIVE FANS AN EPIC BATTLE ONE WEEK AFTER THE MAYWEATHER-PACQUIAO DUD

By **Doug Fischer**

Canelo Alvarez ended a dramatic fight in spectacular fashion.

Canelo Alvarez's third-round knockout of James Kirkland was the type of shootout between proud punchers that forces fans to jump to their feet and throw combinations in the air as though they were part of the ring action.

Emotionally speaking, those who witnessed the junior middleweight fight live – the 31,000-plus fans inside Minute Maid Park in Houston and those who watched it on TV – were connected to the brutal action. Alvarez's brilliant offensive technique and Kirkland's never-say-die attitude combined to give boxing a massive – and much needed – adrenaline boost.

Fans were still buzzing, hearts were still racing hours after the 24-year-old Mexican star's hand was raised. Canelo-Kirkland was just what the sport needed after the letdown of the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Manny Pacquiao "mega-dud," which took place the previous Saturday.

"This is exactly what needed to happen after Mayweather-Pacquiao," Golden Boy Promotions President Oscar De La Hoya told the ringside media after the star of his company scored his career-best KO.

Alvarez (45-1-1, 32 knockouts) delivered the kind of dynamic performance he was known for when he was an up-and-comer feasting on faded former champs like Carlos Baldomir or undersized sluggers like Josesito Lopez. Kirkland (32-2, 28 KOs) was an underdog coming into the fight, due in part to his inactivity and his choice not to train with his longtime coach Ann Wolfe, but he was considered a "live dog." The 31-year-old southpaw from Austin, Texas, was not faded or undersized. At his best, the relentless pressure fighter doesn't just beat opponents to a pulp, he ruins careers with his volume-punching attack.

Kirkland started the fight in his usual fast-and-furious fashion but Alvarez covered up and kept his composure. When Alvarez let his hands go, he got Kirkland's attention with accurate head and body shots. Near the end of Round 1, Alvarez walked Kirkland to the ropes and unleashed a hook to the liver-right to the jaw combination that put Kirkland on the seat of his trunks. Kirkland got up with clear eyes but stiff legs.

Yet nobody counted him out yet. Kirkland, who has survived many rocky starts only to roar back and beat his opposition into submission, tried to regain momentum in Round 2 by pushing Alvarez to the ropes and outworking the crowd favorite.

"I was a little concerned when Kirkland had him on the ropes," De La Hoya said. "But when Kirkland threw a big left and Canelo went under it I didn't worry as much. Canelo was doing the rope-a-dope a little."

Alvarez abandoned that strategy in Round 3 by going on the offensive in the center of the ring. Midway through the round, a right uppercut dropped Kirkland to his hands and knees. Kirkland got up on wobbly legs and Alvarez understood that it was time to close the show. A smashing right cross landed while Kirkland was on the ropes twisted the Texan in mid fall so that he violently crashed the canvas on his side. There was no need for a 10 count.

"Fighting a man like Kirkland, a man who comes to fight, is something fans like and I like," Alvarez said.

The burgeoning crossover star aims to keep giving fans what they want by targeting RING middleweight champ Miguel Cotto for his next fight. He also said he is willing to face feared WBA titleholder Gennady Golovkin.

"I'm ready for anyone," Alvarez said. "I don't run from any rival."

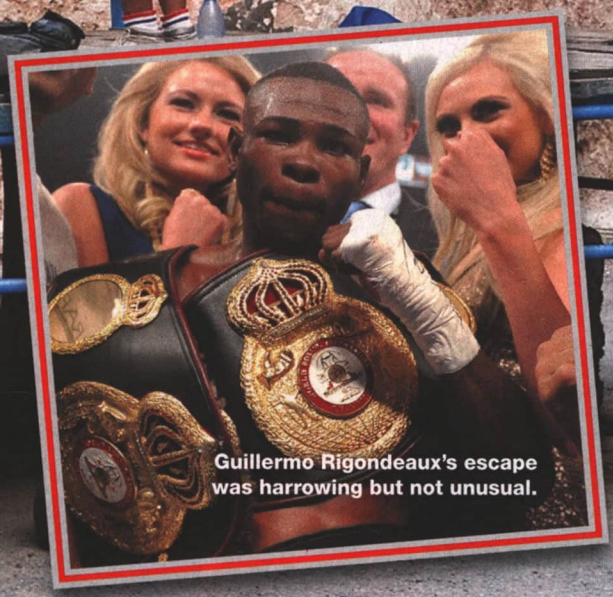
Just what boxing needs.

CHASING THE AMERICAN DREAM FROM A SMUGGLER'S BOAT

THE PLIGHT OF **CUBA'S BOXERS** AND WHAT MIGHT LIE AHEAD IN LIGHT OF RENEWED RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

By **Brin-Jonathan Butler**

The Cubans have an unparalleled system for developing boxers.



Guillermo Rigondeaux's escape was harrowing but not unusual.

By the end of the 11th round on New Year's Eve 2014, Guillermo Rigondeaux – arguably the greatest amateur boxer in history and one of Cuba's most notorious defectors – had fractured the orbital bone and crushed the jaw of someone named Hisashi Amagasa at the Bodymaker Colosseum in Osaka, Japan. It happened around 7 in the morning New York time. Stateside, anyone who wished to follow the fight could only do so via Twitter. Amagasa, despite dropping Rigondeaux twice in the seventh round, was unable to answer the bell in Round 12.

At 34 years old, Rigondeaux's record now stood at 15-0, with 10 wins before the distance, and he was rated the sixth-best fighter pound-for-pound in the world by THE RING. He remained no closer than before to the major fights his achievements and skills deserved.

It wasn't long ago, back in April of 2013, four years after Rigondeaux had left Cuba to chase the American Dream from a smuggler's boat, that Rigondeaux was a 3-to-1 underdog facing junior featherweight champion Nonito Donaire. Rigondeaux won that fight with such dispassionate precision and ease that Top Rank promoter Bob Arum quipped at the end of the fight, "The only way to promote Rigondeaux is if Fidel Castro came over and co-promoted." Arum went on to add regarding the prospects of

Rigondeaux returning to HBO, "Every time I mention him, they throw up."

It was arguably the greatest professional victory a Cuban had achieved since Castro took control over a half century before. For all the experts who dismissed the chances of three-time Olympic champion Teofilo Stevenson against Muhammad Ali, or his successor, fellow three-time Olympic champion Felix Savon, against Mike Tyson, Rigondeaux cruising to victory against Donaire forced an unsettling reconsideration of the prospects of *all* great Cuban fighters in the professional ranks. On the other hand, the vitriol Rigondeaux received from critics calling him a pariah in the sport for his meticulously polished Cuban style illuminated a much starker reality about boxing under capitalism for all those watching from back on the island.

Joel Casamayor was one of the most successful Cuban defectors.

On Nov. 19, 1962, despite producing some of the best athletes in the world, Castro banned professional sports on his island. He drew a line in the sand: Remain in Cuba and fight for the revolution or defect and betray your country for the riches that awaited 90 miles off Cuban shores.

From that moment onward, Cuban athletes became the most lucrative human cargo on earth. For five years, no boxers left. Then, in 1967, Enrico Blanco, only 15 years old, defected in Winnipeg, Canada, shortly after winning gold at the Pan American Games. Over the decades more boxers risked losing everything they had ever known to defect, including their lives. Some crossed minefields to get to Guantanamo Bay, others risked the shark-infested waters of the Florida Straits and soon a perversely thriving human trafficking operation developed in Mexico by mafia cartels to assist men, women, and children – as well as athletes – to escape Cuba as human commodities. You could call it *venture humanitarianism*.

Nearly 30 years after Cuba's first boxing defection, Joel Casamayor, in the lead-up to the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996, became the first Cuban Olympic champion to defect. The trickle turned into a flood 10 years later, with Olympic champions Odlanier Solis and Yuriorkis Gamboa escaping in Venezuela, along with their national teammate, Yan Barthelemy. In 2007, during the Pan Am games, Rigondeaux, the captain of the Cuban team and a two-time Olympic champion, was arrested in Brazil along with teammate Erislandy Lara attempting to defect.

Since the revolution began in Cuba, the overwhelming majority of athletes have remained with only about 1 percent having made the harrowing decision to defect. Many of the greatest Cuban boxing champions resisted the temptation to leave Cuba and, in some cases, defied any suggestion they were tempted in the first place. Most famously, Stevenson rejected multi-million dollar offers to leave his island to fight Ali. Stevenson instead asked, "What is a million dollars compared to the love of eight million Cubans?" His successor, Savon, who won his first of three Olympic gold medals in Barcelona in 1992, turned down considerably higher offers – perhaps in the neighborhood of $20 million or more – from boxing promoters Bob Arum and Don King to fight Mike Tyson.

I interviewed both fighters at their homes in Havana long after their celebrated fighting careers were over. Both of them laughed at the idea of abandoning their country for all the riches in the world. However, both were only willing to talk with me provided I pay them under the table with money they clearly didn't intend to share with the government they claimed to adore.

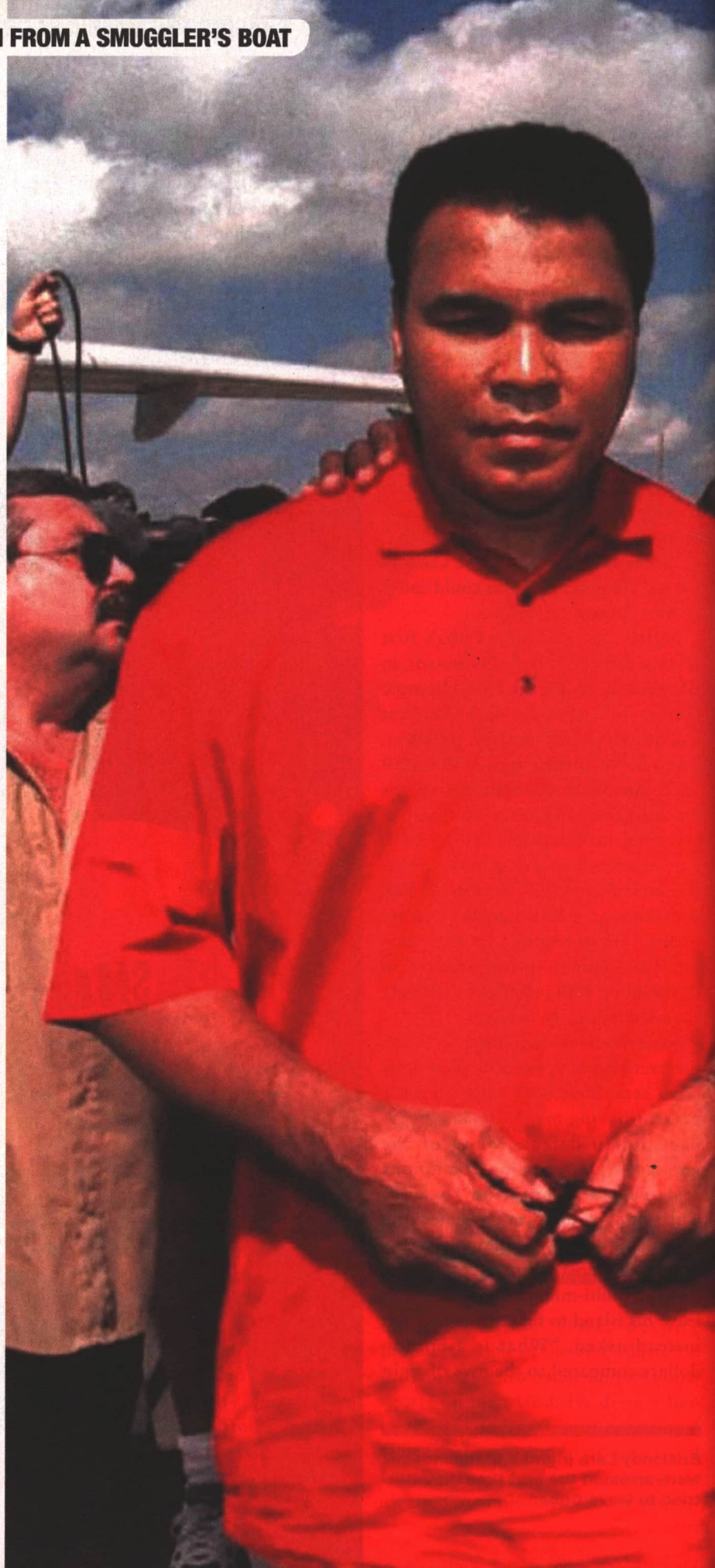
In the last few years, the celebrated Cuban sport machine has seen more defections than at any time since the Castro brothers took power. More than 20,000 Cuban boxers are currently employed by the state on the island, the vast majority making less than $20 a month. That being said, these athletes, like the

Erislandy Lara (right) and Rigondeaux were arrested the first time they tried to leave Cuba.

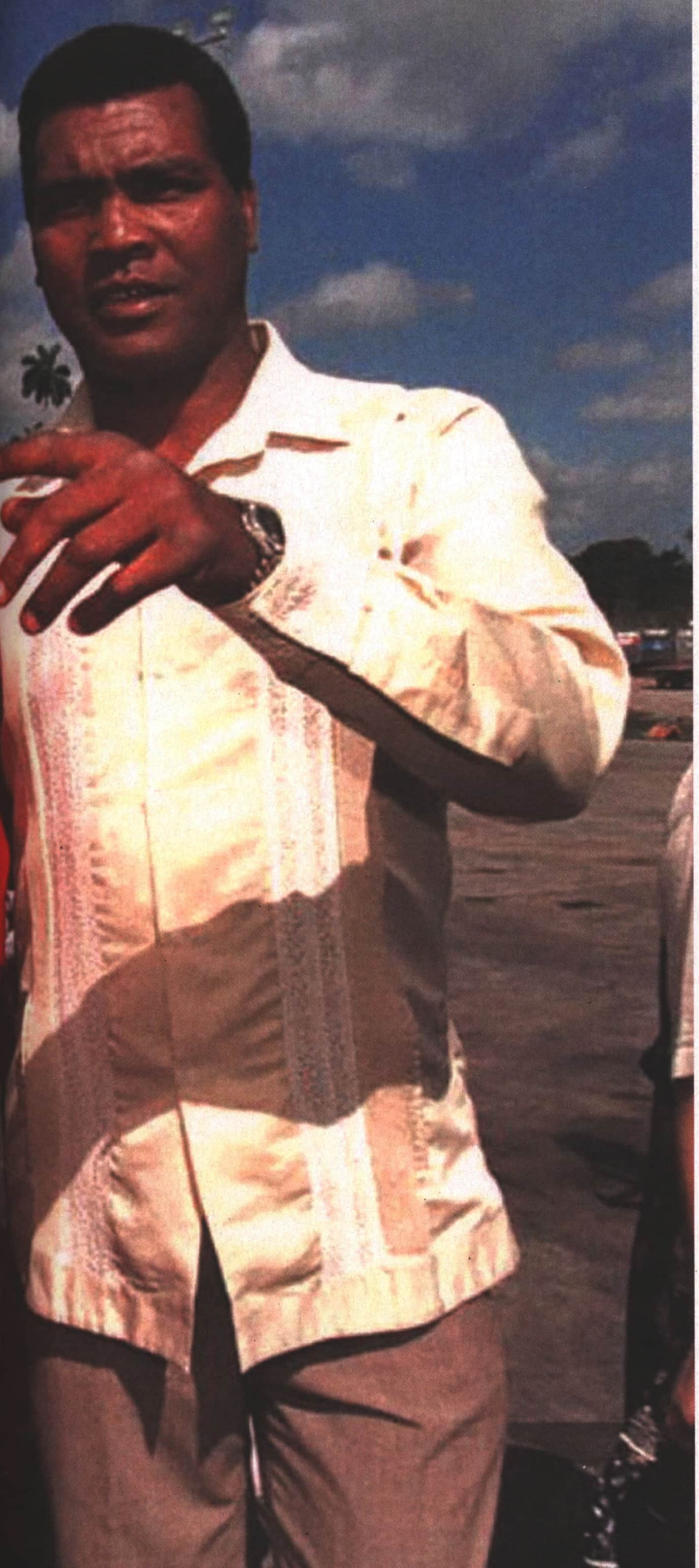
rest of Cubans, pay no rent for their homes, they require no money for medical costs from cradle to grave and education across the island is free. It costs nothing to watch *any* sporting event in the country or to enjoy any cultural event with family or friends. The low wages always take center stage when foreign reporters illuminate the plight of Cuban athletes but these other factors about why they stay also require being contextualized by the perspective many Cuban athletes readily celebrate on the island: They're *proud* of a society that values such things.

The $64,000 question, now that President Obama has taken the radical measure of normalizing relations with Raul Castro and Cuba, is what happens next for over a billion dollars worth of human capital currently on baseball fields and inside boxing rings in Cuba? Most of these athletes are well aware of their market value anywhere but where they were born. With an ever-growing human smuggling operation perilously sending boxers and baseball players to the professional ranks via Mexico, Cuban athletes, insidiously, must exchange a dictator in Cuba for being held hostage as a commodity over shark-infested waters.

Policies on both sides of the 90 miles separating Cuba and the United States have only encouraged Mexican cartels to diversify their drug portfolios to include human smuggling. Over 10,000 Cubans – men, women, and children – washed ashore in Mexico last year at an estimated minimum *fee* of $10,000 per person. Last year I visited some of the hotels on Isla Mujeres, just off the coast of Cancun. Many Cubans were being held there – some even at gunpoint – until a ransom masquerading as a fee was secured



Fidel Castro's ban on professionalism prevented a bout between Muhammad Ali (left) and Teofilo Stevenson.



by the smugglers. Once that money is paid to buy and sell human beings off the island, how indebted the human cargo is to their financiers remains a murky, enormously troubling feature of this malevolent trade. Indeed, Rigondeaux, above all other turmoil he's faced, described the journey to Mexico on a smuggler's boat as the most traumatic experience of his life.

The most likely scenario going forward – and it most assuredly could take some years yet to get galvanized into something concrete – is for Cuban athletes to be treated similarly to coaches and musicians who ply their trades off the island and send the bulk of their earnings into the coffers of the Cuban state economy. Whether this softening position by the Cuban government and olive branch extended to their athletes will successfully ward off the urge to listen to the Siren Song of the Straits remains to be seen. While only a nominal percentage of Cuban athletes on the whole have defected over the decades, lately the sports machine has been hemorrhaging talent in all areas of athletic endeavor. As athletes are vital symbols of the health of the revolution when they reject huge sums to leave, their departures resonate with equal political force. A more pragmatic approach is long overdue to mitigate the "brawn drain" Cuba has endured over the last decade.

The next generation of Cuban boxers are all confronted with the respective legacies of the most famous boxers who remained on the island, as well as those who sought market value for their abilities in the United States. If anything has immediately changed because of the secret negotiations between President Obama and Raul Castro, Cuba's answer to Sophie's Choice may finally be coming to a humane end in the near future.

Brin-Jonathan Butler is the author of "A Cuban Boxer's Journey: Guillermo Rigondeaux, from Castro's Traitor to American Champion" (Picador). His next book, "The Domino Diaries," will be published in June.

This photo of Yoshihiro Kamegai (left) and Robert Guerrero won the first place award for best action photo in the 2014 Boxing Writers Association of America photo contest.

UNDISPUTED CHAMPION

THE RING PHOTOGRAPHER **NAOKI FUKUDA** IS AMASSING AWARDS

HIGH HONORS

THE RING was a big winner in the 14th annual Boxing Writers Association of American contest, taking eight writing awards in addition to Naoki Fukuda's two photo awards. Winners were: Joseph Santoliquito, three honorable mentions (news story, feature story under 1,500 words and feature story over 1,500 words); Michael Rosenthal, third place (feature story under 1,500 words); and four more honorable mentions (Gordon Marino, feature under 1,500 words; Lee Groves, feature over 1,500 words; Bernard Fernandez, feature over 1,500 words, and Norm Frauenheim, investigative reporting). The winners were recognized at the 90th annual BWAA Awards Dinner on April 24 in New York City. To see the complete list of winners, go to http://bit.ly/bwaa-awards.

Naoki Fukuda spent some time in the gym as a young man but decided he didn't have the passion it took to succeed as a boxer. The native of Japan has made his mark in the sport another way.

He arguably is the best boxing photographer in the world.

Fukuda, THE RING's primary photographer, has submitted 10 entries – split between two categories, feature and action – in the past five Boxing Writers Association of America photo contests.

And he has won eight awards, including three of five first places in the action category. That includes a compelling first-place shot of Robert Guerrero punching Yoshihiro Kamegai in the 2014 contest, for which the winners were announced in April.

No other photographer has been as successful in recent years.

Fukuda has a remarkable ability to capture the most dramatic moments in the fights he shoots, an innate talent that undoubtedly has been enhanced by his own experience in the ring. He has an unusual feel for the sport.

And, with three feature awards (first place, second place and honorable mention), he also has the ability to capture the key moment before or after the fight. His shot of Danny Jacobs holding his son after a victory, which took an honorable mention for 2014, is only one example.

Fukuda moved from Tokyo to Las Vegas in 2001 to be at the epicenter of the sport but has still made some 300 trips around the world to shoot the biggest fights over the past 14 years.

And there's no end in sight for the energetic 49-year-old, which is great news for THE RING and the Japanese magazine for which he works. We feel very fortunate to have him.

— Michael Rosenthal

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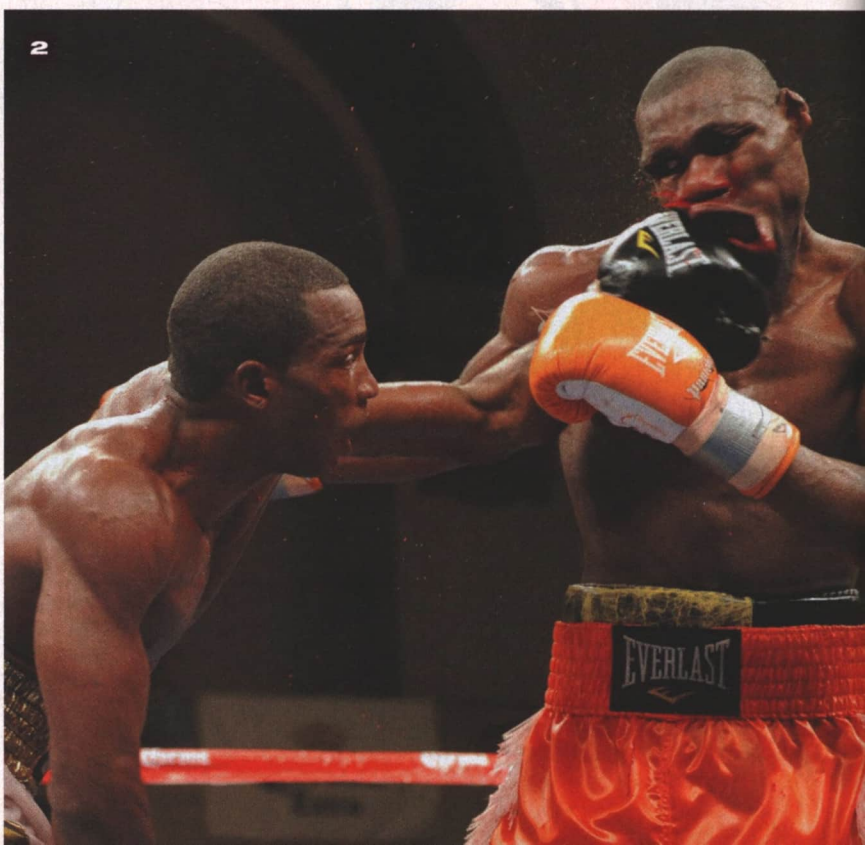

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Naoki Fukuda's BWAA awards: 1. 2nd place feature (2011); 2. 1st place action (2011); 3. 1st place feature (2013); 4. honorable mention action (2012); 5. honorable mention action (2013); 6. 1st place action (2010); 7. honorable mention feature (2014).

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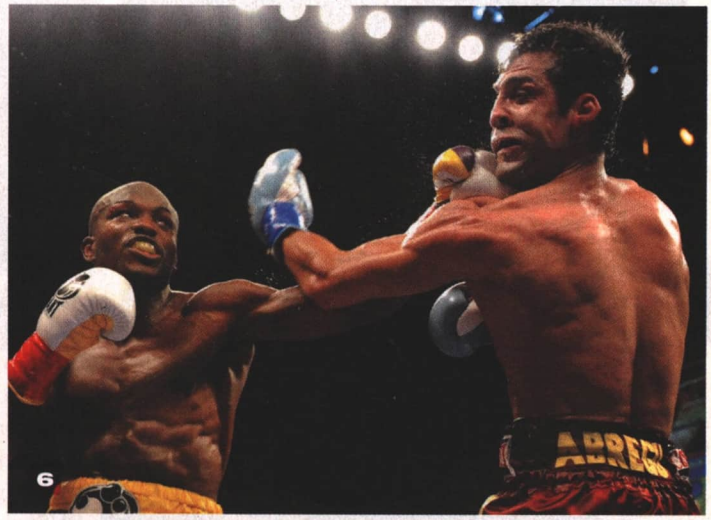

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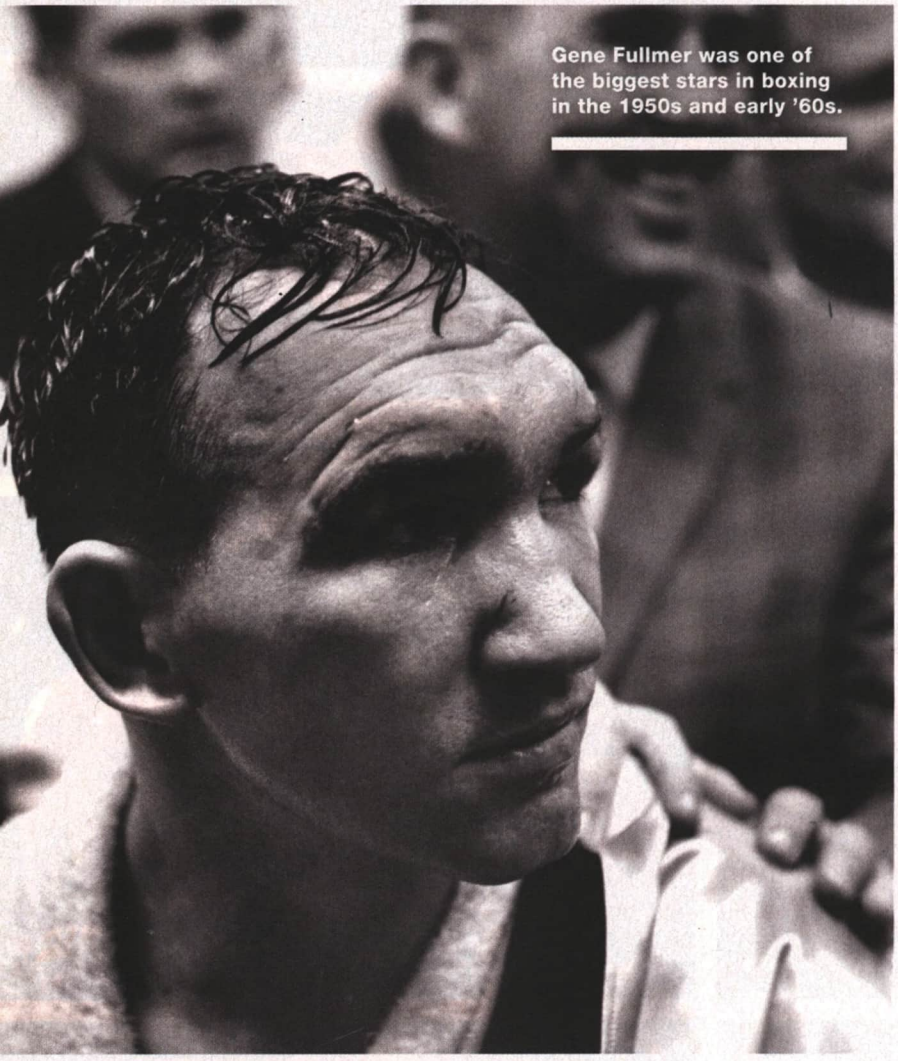
A CLASSIC BRAWLER



Gene Fullmer was one of the biggest stars in boxing in the 1950s and early '60s.

GENE FULLMER RELIED ON GRIT AND TOUGHNESS TO MAKE HIS MARK

By **Lee Groves**

Gritty. Determined. Aggressive. Rugged. Successful. Those are just five words that describe former two-time middleweight champion Gene Fullmer, who died April 27 at his home in West Jordan, Utah, at 83. His death, difficult as it was by itself, came at a particularly difficult time for the Fullmer family because it occurred the same day his younger brother Jay was laid to rest. The third fighting Fullmer brother, onetime middleweight title challenger Don, died in January 2012.

Fullmer's brutally physical ring style resulted in a record of 55-6-3 (24 knockouts) during a 12-year career that saw him defeat Carmen Basilio (twice), Paul Pender, Gil Turner (twice), Rocky Castellani, Ralph "Tiger" Jones (twice), Charles Humez, Chico Vejar, Ellsworth "Spider" Webb (twice), Florentino Fernandez and Benny "Kid" Paret. He was also only one of two men ever to defeat Sugar Ray Robinson twice in championship fights (Pender was the other) and his first fight with Basilio was named THE RING's Fight of the Year in 1959.

Fullmer was born July 21, 1931, and began boxing after his father, Tuff, brought Gene and his two younger brothers to a gym run by longtime Utah politician and boxing manager Marv Jenson. Fullmer turned pro in June 1951 with a first-round knockout over Glen Peck and the man nicknamed "Cyclone" proceeded to blow through his early competition by stopping 18 of his first 21 opponents, 16 in the first four rounds. But as he raised his level of opposition Fullmer's true strengths began to emerge – relentless pressure, vicious body punching, painfully clubbing blows from all angles, a fierce competitive drive and an excellent chin. Those attributes carried him to 29 straight wins before Turner outpointed him in April 1955. Fullmer avenged that loss in his very next fight.

Back-to-back decision defeats temporarily stalled Fullmer's progress but he zoomed up the rankings by winning his next five fights. Following a tune-up third-round KO over Moses Ward, Fullmer met Robinson for the middleweight title on January 2, 1957, at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

The 35-year-old Robinson was making the second defense of his third middleweight reign and despite being 10 years older he was a slim

6-to-5 favorite. But once the action began it became clear that Fullmer's unorthodox swarming was the antidote to Sugar Ray's peerless technique. Fullmer built an early lead, opened a cut over Robinson's left eye and scored a seventh-round knockdown en route to a commanding 15-round decision.

Following a pair of non-title 10-round wins, Fullmer and Robinson met again on May 1, 1957, in Chicago Stadium. This time Fullmer was a robust 3½-to-1 favorite and through the first four rounds he showed why as his ruggedness carried the action. But just before the midway point in Round 5 Robinson nailed Fullmer coming in with what is now known as "The Perfect Punch" – a hair-trigger hook to the jaw that sent the champion stumbling backward before hitting the floor. The effects of the blow were too much for Fullmer to recover from and referee Frank Sikora counted "10" over Fullmer for what would be the only time in his career.

"That was supposedly the greatest left hook ever thrown and it happened to hit me on the chin," Fullmer said years later on a Classic Sports Network segment. "When I came to, I was standing up and he was in the other corner jumping up and down. I asked my manager, 'How come Robinson is doing exercises between rounds?' and he said, 'It's not between rounds.' I said, 'What do you mean?' and he said, 'They counted 10.' and I said, 'It must be on me because I never heard any of it.'"

The middleweight title eventually split and while Robinson went on to lose the lineal title to Pender, Fullmer captured the vacant NBA belt (the forerunner to today's WBA) by stopping the iron-chinned Basilio in 14 rounds. If the stoppage itself wasn't surprising enough – it was the first time Basilio had ever failed to go the distance in 75 fights – the manner in which Fullmer achieved it was even more shocking. The conventional wisdom going in was that Fullmer-Basilio would be a titanic clash of bulls but Fullmer surprised everyone by turning bullfighter.

"I knew how Basilio fought and I didn't figure he could change so I never did train to be a boxer," Fullmer told Peter Heller in the book "In This Corner." "Even in training camp I trained to slug. Word got back to him, he was all set for me this way. He come out slugging, I moved back and I had just a split second faster timing that night than he did. And I just beat him to the punch all night. And, of course, we got in and had a few exchanges – which [came] out about even – but when we were at a distance at all he'd go to throw a punch and I'd just barely move out of the way. And then I'd stick him and stick him and stick him. Kept sticking him and beat him pretty soundly, really, for the fight."

A solid right hand sent Basilio staggering back and moments later, his corner, seeing their man was badly stunned, asked referee Jack Downey to stop the fight. After retaining his belt against Webb (decision) and future champion Joey Giardello (draw), Fullmer stopped Basilio again, this time in 12 rounds. Because of their mutual dislike of Robinson, Fullmer and Basilio struck an understanding that turned into a longtime friendship. During one International Boxing Hall of Fame induction weekend in the early 1990s they engaged in a humorous sparring session.

A little more than five months after the Basilio rematch, Fullmer fought Robinson to a draw that many thought Sugar Ray edged out. The controversy prompted a fourth meeting and this time Fullmer nearly scored a knockout in the third round before pounding out a 15-round decision.

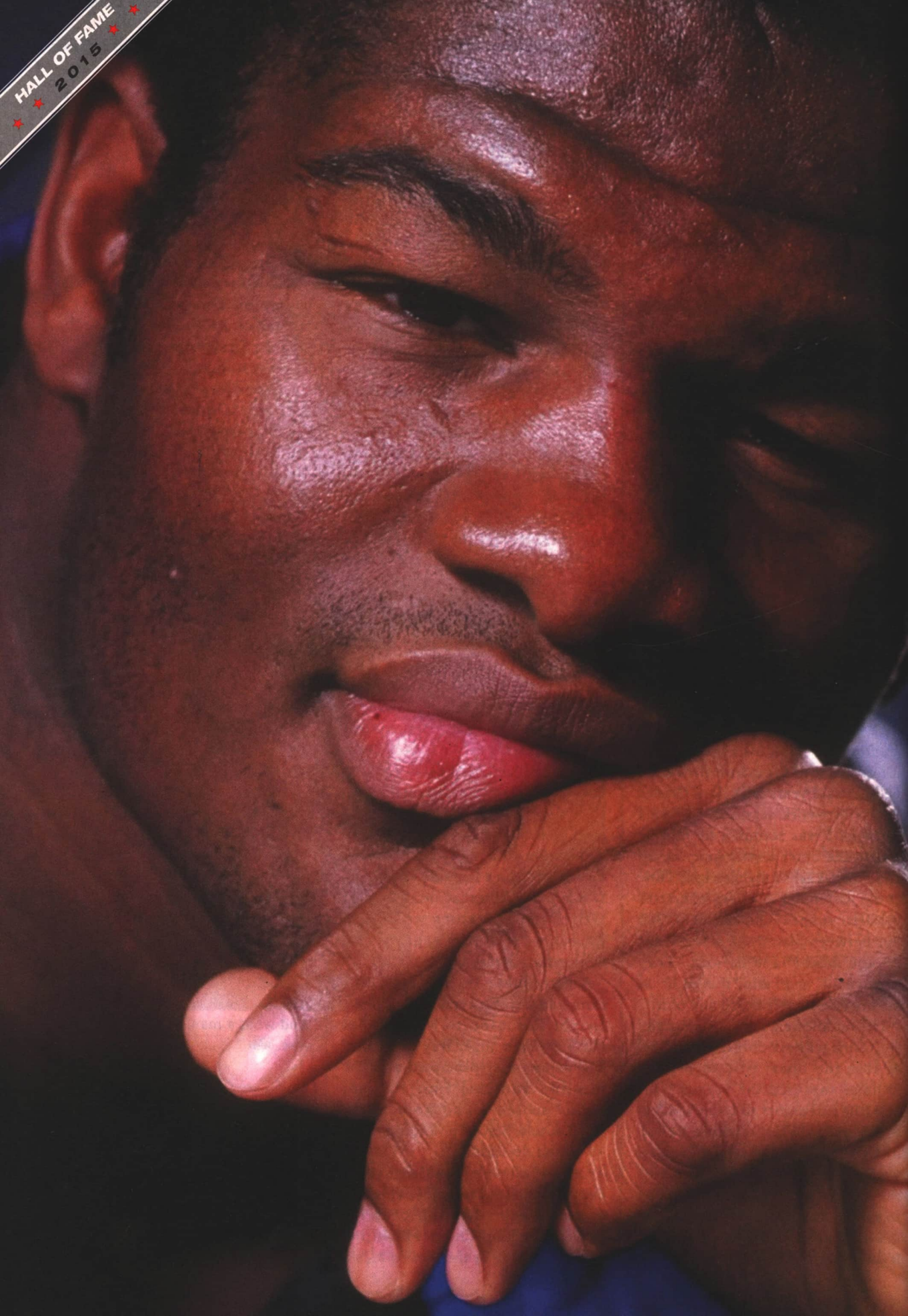
One of Fullmer's proudest victories came five months later when he scored a split decision over the power-punching Cuban Florentino Fernandez, for in the late rounds a Fernandez blow fractured a bone in Fullmer's right elbow. Fernandez staged an inspired surge in the final rounds but Fullmer's early lead was enough for him to retain his title. In subsequent years, Fullmer cited this fight as proof of his mental strength and competitive spirit.

Next up was reigning welterweight champion Benny "Kid" Paret in December 1961. From first bell to last the Utah native dished out a merciless pounding before ending the fight with three knockdowns in the 10th. It would prove to be the final victory of Fullmer's career, for his final three fights came against the powerful Dick Tiger, who won the inaugural WBA middleweight championship by decision in October 1962. Exactly five months later Tiger retained the belt via a blood-soaked 15-round draw thanks to a late rally. The closeness of the rematch led to a third fight, this time in Tiger's native Nigeria for the WBA and now the WBC belt. The 32-year-old Fullmer was long past his best while Tiger, though nearly two years older, was still near his peak. Jenson asked for the fight to be stopped following the seventh round.

Fullmer remained active in retirement as he coached young fighters, refereed a handful of fights between 1967 and 1990 (most notably the Bob Foster-Al Bolden fight in September 1976) and made frequent appearances at the IBHOF's induction weekend.

Friendly. Genial. Funny. Proud. Legendary. These are five words that describe Gene Fullmer the man. And what a man – and a fighter – he was. RING

Lee Groves is a boxing writer and historian based in Friendly, W.Va. He is the author of "Tales from the Vault: A Celebration of 100 Boxing Closet Classics." To order, please visit Amazon.com or email the author at l.groves@frontier.com to arrange for autographed copies.


HALL OF FAME
2015

NAGGING QUESTIONS

RIDDICK BOWE'S LEGACY WILL FOREVER INCLUDE 'WHAT IF?'

By **Bernard Fernandez**

As a young amateur boxer, Riddick Bowe aspired to become the second coming of Muhammad Ali. He didn't quite make it, as is the case with any number of Ali imitators who attempted to duplicate the original. Instead, the two-time former heavyweight champion became the first coming of Riddick Bowe, which in some people's eyes is very much like the second coming of Ingemar Johansson. That's why "Big Daddy's" election to the International Boxing Hall of Fame's Class of 2015 has sparked such spirited debate.

Enshrinees into any sport's hall of fame can be divided into two categories. There are slam-dunk selections whose credentials are so impeccable that nary a voice is ever raised in dissent. But sports halls are not universally populated with Babe Ruths, Johnny Unitases, Bill Russells and, in the case of the IBHOF, Alis and Sugar Ray Robinsons. Thus the age-old question: Is a particular nominee to boxing's highest individual honor indisputably worthy of such designation?

Bowe, former lightweight champion Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini and former featherweight titlist "Prince" Naseem Hamed comprise the first IBHOF class in the "Modern" category since the adjustment of the eligibility period. Each will be inducted on June 14 in Canastota, New York, with question marks attached. But, perhaps even more so than those other newly minted Hall of Famers, Bowe has sparked the kind of barstool and media-fueled objections not raised for any heavyweight candidate since the late Johansson gained admittance to the club in 2002.

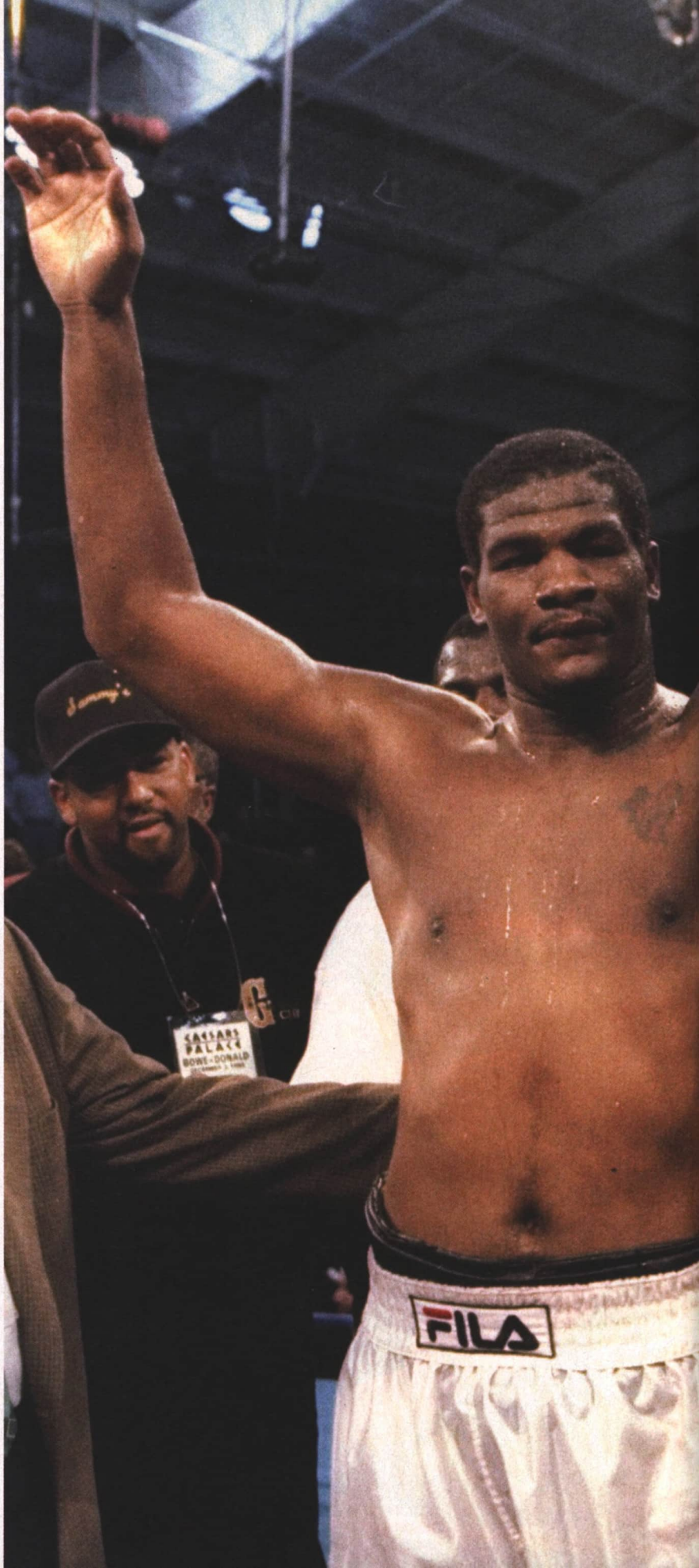
Like Johansson, who won a silver medal in the 1952 Helsinki Games, Bowe has an Olympic pedigree, having taken silver in the super heavyweight division in Seoul in 1988. Like Johansson, best known for his three-fight series with Floyd Patterson, Bowe's primary distinction as a professional is his epic trilogy with Evander Holyfield. The difference

Riddick Bowe's two wins over Evander Holyfield were his greatest successes.

between them in that respect is Johansson was 1-2 against Patterson while Bowe won two out of three against Holyfield.

Like Johansson, whose 26-2 pro career (with 17 knockout victories) includes few big-name opponents with the exception of Patterson and Eddie Machen, Bowe's 43-1 (33 KOs) mark is somewhat bereft of matchups with the finest heavyweights of his era. Yes, he did go to hell and back with Holyfield three times but his other title bouts during his two championship reigns hardly reads like a Who's Who of the division: Jorge Luis Gonzalez, Herbie Hide, Jesse Ferguson and Michael Dokes. Yes, Bowe did face credible opponents in non-title matchups – Andrew Golota (twice), Bruce Seldon, Pierre Coetzer, Buster Mathis Jr., Larry Donald, Tony Tubbs, Tyrell Biggs and Bert Cooper – but, considering the talent-enriched period in which he competed, where is the name Lennox Lewis? Mike Tyson? Not to mention Michael Moorer, George Foreman, Larry Holmes, Ray Mercer, Buster Douglas, Tommy Morrison, Razor Ruddock and David Tua.

Bowe, now 47, acknowledges that his enshrinement into the IBHOF has been met with some resistance. But he said it isn't his fault that his path to Canastota detoured around some of the more dangerous intersections. He said he "desperately" wanted to test himself as a pro against Lewis, who, representing Canada, stopped him in two rounds in the gold-medal bout in Seoul. Bowe insists he was just as eager to mix it up with homeboy Tyson, who came from the same gritty, crime-infested Brownsville neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, that he did but was steered away from those and other potential career-defining bouts by his manager, Rock Newman. Newman, according to Bowe, was in "total control" of any



Bowe and manager Rock Newman, shown here celebrating a win over Larry Donald in 1994, had a contentious relationship.

and all decisions regarding who and when he fought.

"I really don't have any regrets," Bowe said. "The fact that I fought Evander three times pretty much made up for everything else. I think those other guys (Lewis and Tyson) realize that they couldn't have done anything better than I did when I fought Holyfield. They couldn't even have done it as good. When they saw what I did with Holyfield, they had to know they couldn't have beat me anyhow."

So if Bowe is confident that he would have had success against the two most obvious omissions from his resume, why didn't he just go ahead and fight those guys? Bouts with Lewis and Tyson, perhaps even multiple times, would have significantly added to his net career earnings of $30 million, a tidy sum nonetheless that has all but vanished due to profligate spending and a raft of legal problems that also served to drain his bank account.

"If I could change anything, the No. 1 thing is that I wouldn't have Rock Newman as my manager," Bowe said. "I wish I had had people around me who had my best interests at heart, like (Floyd) Mayweather (Jr.) has. I wish I was more into the financial part of the game, that I had paid more attention to what was going on around me. There were meetings and stuff where I needed to be there. I really thought that [Newman] had my back. He didn't. That made all the difference."

Newman, who was sued by Bowe and whose relationship with him has turned so frosty as to be non-existent, has contended that some of the signature fights that Bowe might have had didn't get made because, well, doing business in boxing can be difficult and closing multimillion-dollar deals at the negotiating table isn't always as easy as an elite fighter hooking off the jab.

"Bowe wanted fame and fortune," Newman told the Washington Post in 2010, describing his oversight of Bowe's career as one might the difficulty of dealing with a petulant

child. "He wanted to be Muhammad Ali. But he didn't want to pay the price for it. He could not internalize the process. He hated the process."

That might explain why Bowe constantly had problems maintaining an optimal fighting weight and so disliked the rigors of training camp. But that should not have been an obstacle to arranging fights that the public wanted to see and that Bowe insists he wanted to participate in.

"When it comes to making big fights, nothing is automatic," Newman said, comparing Bowe's circumstances with the long delay in finalizing Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao. "The bridge between wanting to see something and actually seeing it can be steep and long. Sometimes it's a bridge that leads to nowhere."

That bridge that never reaches the other side, Bowe said, began with the injudicious decision to toss his WBC championship belt into a trash can in London (he retained his WBA and IBF titles) after Lewis had won a WBC elimination bout by stopping Ruddock in two rounds in that city on Oct. 31, 1992. The prevailing impression then, and now, is that it was Bowe ducking Lewis, not the other way around.

"That was Rock Newman's idea," Bowe said of the trash-can deposit that so impacted his career and how so many have come to perceive that career. "I wish I never would have done that. I really wanted to fight Lennox. I wanted to fight him so bad I could taste it. I wanted to fight him more than anyone."

Opinions, of course, will have to suffice when hard evidence is lacking. If there is anyone who has a reasonable claim to knowing what might have happened had Bowe and Lewis ever squared off, it is Holyfield, who spent a lot of time trading leather with both. And the "Real Deal" – past and present – casts his ballot for Bowe.

Prior to his first scrap with Lewis on March 13, 1999, Holyfield, his three wars with Bowe already in the books, suggested that "Lennox Lewis can't show me anything that I haven't already seen from Bowe. Bowe is a bigger, more complete fighter than Lewis. He can fight on the inside and from the outside. Lewis is kind of one-dimensional by comparison."

Sixteen years later, has Holyfield reversed course on that somewhat daring suggestion? No, he has not. He also believes that Bowe – at least a fit, motivated Bowe – would have been too much for Tyson to handle.

"It's still the same," Holyfield said when asked to confirm or deny his original projection of the Lewis-Bowe fight that never happened. "Lennox Lewis is a very strong guy but he just held you when he got on the inside. That's it. Riddick Bowe, he'd punch you when you got in tight. Lennox would try to hit you with one shot and if he hit you with that shot, he'd try to hit you with another one. But if he missed, he'd grab a hold of you and put all his weight on you. Bowe, to me, was a more complete fighter.

"I also think Bowe would have been too much for Tyson. Lewis, I don't believe, wanted to fight Tyson when he was younger. I know Lennox was scared of that Tyson."

Controversial opinions, to be sure, and not shared by everyone. But Kathy Duva, whose Main Events was Lewis' American promotional company, agrees with the notion that a Bowe-Lewis fight never came to be primarily because of interference from Newman.

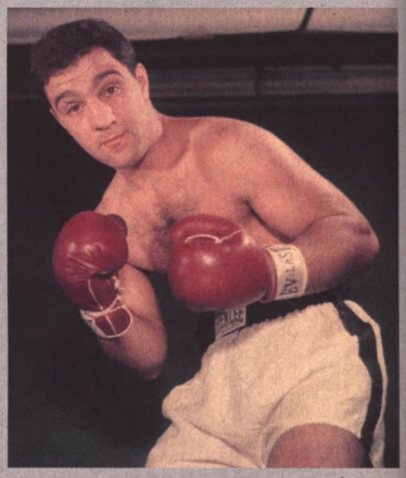
"I can't speak for what Riddick thought but we definitely wanted the (Bowe-Lewis) fight," she said. "Everybody knew that. We tried and tried and tried to make it happen. Lennox wanted to unify all the titles but Rock just didn't want to do it, and Bowe literally threw the (WBC) belt in the garbage. I'm sure that was Rock's idea.

"Rock was impossible. The way we get frustrated now with Richard Schaefer and Al Haymon, that was Rock back then. You couldn't deal with him."

Fight fans thus are left to sift through the whys and wherefores of the enigmatic Riddick Bowe. Is

FEWEST LOSSES

Riddick Bowe finished his career with only one loss, equaling the second fewest among heavyweights already in the Hall of Fame. The list also includes future Hall of Famer Vitali Klitschko.



0 • Rocky Marciano
(49-0, 43 KOs)

1 • John L. Sullivan
(38-1-1, 32 KOs)

1 • James J. Jeffries
(19-1-2, 16 KOs)

1 • Gene Tunney
(65-1-1, 48 KOs)

1 • Michael Spinks
(31-1, 21 KOs)

1 • Riddick Bowe
(43-1, 33 KOs)

2 • Ingemar Johansson
(26-2, 17 KOs)

2 • Lennox Lewis
(41-2-1, 32 KOs)

2 • Vitali Klitschko
(45-2, 41 KOs)

Bowe won the super heavyweight silver medal in the 1988 Olympics.

the real Bowe the steadfast guy who refused to yield to the lure of drugs and crime in Brownsville and who walked his mother home from her bus stop to protect her from any possible harm and who earned Holyfield's undying respect where it counted, inside the ropes? Or is the real Bowe the clownish figure who routinely gained 30 or 40 pounds between fights, who lacked the discipline to have the kind of staying power that would have prolonged his prime and who washed out of Marine boot camp after just a week?

He likely is a little bit of both, just as Johansson is an assemblage of seemingly mismatched parts comprising an intriguing whole. But sometimes it is an individual's inconsistencies that set him apart and form the basis of his legacy, for better or worse.

Renowned strength-and-conditioning coach Mackie Shilstone, whose celebrity client list also included such fighters as Michael Spinks, Roy Jones Jr. and Bernard Hopkins, said he can never forget the time he spent with Bowe.

"Getting Riddick into the condition he needed to be in just became a battle," Shilstone said. "It almost burned me out. But he also was the funniest guy I ever worked with. When he fought Holyfield the first time, Evander and Tim Hallmark (Holyfield's conditioning coach) were floored by Bowe's mobility. They thought he'd be slow and ponderous but he outpunched Holyfield 2-to-1. After the fight, Holyfield even said he thought Bowe wouldn't have anything left after the eighth round.

"I just hope Riddick finds whatever it is he's looking for. It always seemed to me he was looking for some alter ego. I think that's what happened when he went into the Marines. You know that was a form of escapism. He was always trying to escape from, or to, something."

HALL OF FAME 2015

BRITISH ROYALTY

'PRINCE' NASEEM HAMED WAS KING WHEN IT CAME TO ENTERTAINMENT

By **Elliot Worsell**

Before Naseem Hamed began his professional career in 1992 with a second-round knockout of Ricky Beard, he was paraded around Fargate shopping center in Sheffield, on a busy Saturday no less, by his trainer and mentor Brendan Ingle. The Irish pied piper wore a sandwich board and carried a poster promoting Hamed's debut as the unsure boxer trailed behind. Shoppers inevitably looked his way, for Ingle whooped and hollered and used a megaphone to proclaim the boy's greatness while Naseem, 18 at the time and a mere flyweight, shrugged his shoulders and bowed his head, a diminutive frame shrinking under the interrogation of baffled locals.

Yet fast-forward to April 14, the night of his pro debut, and Hamed was unequivocally "The Prince." He walked tall, he vaulted the top rope, he wore leopard-skin attire, he performed an extravagant forward flip when introduced, he smirked, he snarled, he broke all the rules and a crippling body shot folded Beard in two rounds. Gone was the shy teenager in the shopping center.

"Naz" was at home. »

Naseem Hamed knew how to grab your attention.

"Who was really interested in a small Yemeni kid who had a good amateur career but did nothing spectacular?" said Dominic Ingle, son of Brendan, who was around Naz for much of the former world featherweight champion's career. "He had to create interest. He knew that. My dad showed him the way and he saw the method."

Ingle had once taken Herol Graham, a former European middleweight champion, on a tour of Sheffield's working men's clubs on Sunday afternoons in the hope of drumming up interest in the awkward switch-hitter's career. These appearances led to Graham play-fighting with brave locals and showing his vast array of tricks. And it worked. He'd sell tickets off the back of being so accessible.

Years later, Ingle would guide Hamed and his friend, Ryan Rhodes, toward many of the same smoke-filled, beer-drenched pool halls and continue the flogging process.

"Back then Naz wasn't as flash, arrogant or flamboyant as he grew up to be," said Rhodes, who joined the Wincobank gym at 6 and met Hamed two years later. "He was just a kid from a corner shop. But he was easily the best fighter to ever come out of the Wincobank. Naz had absolutely everything – confidence, ability, power, speed, accuracy. He had the full package."

When Rhodes was 11, he and Hamed were asked to perform ring-card duties for a show at the City Hall headlined by Graham. As per their role, they were kitted out in dinner suits and dickie bows and asked to parade around the ring between rounds holding numbered cards. "We looked a right couple of numpties," Rhodes recalled. Rather than a test of friendship, though, it merely solidified their bond. They were in this together. Best friends. Both were going to be world champions at the same time. They were sure of it from the start.

"His dad's corner shop was one hundred yards up the road from the gym," said Dominic's brother John Ingle, who accompanied Hamed to all but one of the youngster's 67 amateur bouts and helped train him as a pro. "You walked past the shop and he'd be outside playing every day. He was just one of those kids who drifted in the gym one day. He was only 7.

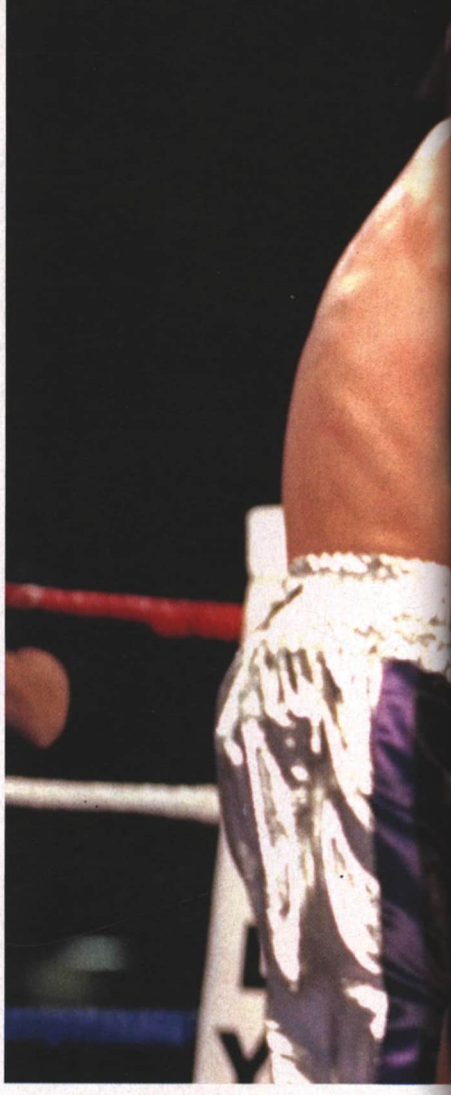
"As soon as he came in from school, he'd be in the gym from half past three. He'd then be in there until 6 or 7 o'clock at night. There were a million different things going on in the gym and he didn't want to miss out."

Hamed was one of nine kids, thus used to being lost in a crowd. And the gym, chock-full of like-minded youngsters, was more or less a home away from home. "He was like a little street urchin," said John. "He didn't cause trouble; he just wanted to be in the gym. He was a bundle of energy. By the time he was 14, he'd probably gone past the 10,000 hours they say it takes to master something. He must have done double that.

"If one of our other boxers had a fight, he'd go with my dad to the show and soak it all in. It was easy enough to sling him in the car and take him with us. He was like a professor of boxing by the time he was a teenager. Also, I can't remember him ever having a girlfriend while he was at school. How could he? He was never out of the gym."

Though Hamed mostly refused to do roadwork or any kind of running, he made up for this deficiency by spending countless hours sparring in the gym. It was his favorite pastime. It was how he'd get fit. It was how his style would develop and how his punch power, which was quite extraordinary, started to reveal itself.

"Naz was a tremendous puncher," said Dominic. "We'd wear pads that would go over your wrist and Naz would hit you somewhere between the palm of your hand and your wrist. By the time we'd done three minutes, my arms were dead and I'd have to swap with John. He could definitely whack."



"My uncle had a pet shop and he used to breed ducks," said John. "They had a 6-foot fence around it with an electric wire to keep the cats out. It only had something like 12 volts but it would hit me in the elbow or shoulder when I was a kid and knock me back a bit. The cat would be knocked off its feet. Well, when I took Naz on the pads, it was like getting an electric shock. After he'd finished with me, I'd look like an alcoholic – my hands would shake so much."

This punching power, fairly miraculous given his slight frame, was attributed to the size of his chunky thighs, the ease with which he was able to fire off jarring shots from all angles, whether coming forward or going backward, and also his relatively low punch output, which allowed him to load up and re-

Hamed had an odd style but it was very effective.

set between attacks.

"Herol Graham would take a few rounds to size you up and take the sting out of you," said John. "Then he'd go to work. With Naz, though, he was like Herol Graham without the first three rounds. He'd do your head in and take away the sting but he'd bash you up as well. He'd be awkward and hurtful. He watched Herol and evolved his style to make it more fan-friendly."

This adjustment proved pivotal and Hamed, in winning the WBO world featherweight title from Steve Robinson in September 1995, was well on his way to global stardom. He was fast becoming the showman Brendan had always pushed him to be.

"He'd be in the changing room before a fight and we'd have the likes of Pierce Brosnan, Puff Daddy and Liam and Noel Gallagher (from the band Oasis) in there," said John. "No British fighter has had that level of fame. He even went to Michael Jackson's house. How does that happen? How is there a connection between a little kid from a Sheffield corner shop and The King of Pop?"

"I remember being in a New York gym when Naz was training for the Kevin Kelley fight (December 1997) and I was just on the bag doing a bit of training," said Rhodes. "Next minute I looked outside and saw about 10 massive Escalades pull up. I thought we were going to get raided. Then some of the biggest black guys I'd ever seen climbed out of the vehicles and Michael Jackson walked in behind them. He'd come to watch Naz train."

As the stars looked on, Hamed successfully defended his WBO world championship 15 times and scooped the IBF and WBC versions with wins over Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson and Cesar Soto, respectively. He cleaned up the division. He redefined the division. Some went as far as to call him the greatest featherweight of all time. And, for a while, nobody dared argue. It sounded good.

But after beating Wayne McCullough in October '98 he parted ways with Brendan Ingle and left the Wincobank altogether. Looking back, many believe it signaled the beginning of the end for Hamed.

"There were times when Naz was supposed to be at the gym at 4 and, by the time he got there, it would be 10 o'clock at night," remembered Dominic Ingle. "It took him six hours to do a 4-mile journey from the other side of town. You know then that the boredom has set in. He had a thousand other things to do. He was doing appearances, sponsorship stuff, meeting other celebrities and so on."

"When Naz left Brendan, he was no longer the same kid or the same fighter," said Rhodes. "When Naz was with Brendan, it wasn't just about power. It wasn't just about knocking people out. It was about looking good, winning and, if you get a knockout, it's a bonus. When he left, though, that all changed. I think the Kevin Kelley fight was a wake-up call. And the Naz I saw against Barrera was nothing like the Naz I'd seen growing up."

Oh yes, Marco Antonio Barrera, the great Mexican who, back in April 2001, at the time he met Hamed, was just on his way to solidifying his greatness. He'd recently waged a brutal Fight of the Year with bitter rival Erik Morales at junior featherweight and was – whisper it quietly – perhaps seen as a burnt-out force in the eyes of "The Prince" and his backers. It was, in so many ways, then, the perfect fight.

"I would have bet everything I owned that he'd beat Barrera," said John. "At 100 percent, Barrera wouldn't have been able to do anything with him. But you could tell Naz wasn't fit that night. He had one plan and that was to blast him out.

"Naz was the perfect product but he wasn't being looked after properly. He needed to be doing as he was told. When he was sparring at the Wincobank, it was competitive, it was almost personal. He'd want to get the upper hand on his mates. They were proper fights. They'd test his strength of character. But, going into that Barrera fight, they had little Mexican kids nobody had ever heard of. They were just happy to be there. Naz was in his comfort zone and didn't have the hunger to get out of it."

"It was a fight I don't think Naz should have lost," agreed Dominic. "But if you look at the fights before that, Paul Ingle gave him a load of trouble before Naz finished it with a body shot, Augie Sanchez gave him a run for his money before Naz knocked him out and he also had an ugly wrestling match with Cesar Soto. The writing was on the wall. The opponents he boxed when he left us weren't the best. There were no fantastic performances. He was just getting through fights.

"His style changed a bit too. He tended to stand more southpaw and switched a lot less. When he was here, he had a lot of people around him who pushed and motivated him. Now he was getting special treatment and one-on-one sessions. He seemed to call the shots and that reflected in his performance. He had everybody telling him Barrera was a [junior featherweight] who was on the slide and would get knocked out. His punch was always his get-out-of-jail-free card but you don't rely on that. Naz relied on it that night and he ran out of time."

Hamed lost a unanimous decision to Barerra, as well as his perfect record, his air of invincibility and his mystique. Dignity also went at the precise moment his head was slammed into the corner post by his Mexican challenger in Round 12.

"Three weeks after the Barerra fight we played golf together," recalled Rhodes. "It didn't seem like the loss affected him that much but I know it did. I knew what he was like. Naz was so proud. He genuinely never thought he would get beaten. Deep down it hurt him."

The assumption was that a scorned Hamed would chase a rematch and look to set the record straight. Instead, he sheepishly dissolved into the background only to emerge 11 months later with a lackluster win over Manuel Calvo in London. The decision victory, which was greeted with boos, catcalls and impatient foot-stomps by a restless home crowd, marked the final time anybody would see Hamed in the ring.

"You look at most great fighters and they lose and come back stronger," said Dominic. "With Naz, though, it was like someone took away his ball and he didn't want to

DOMINATING

Naseem Hamed ruled the featherweight division from 1995 to 2000, collecting three major championships and making 15 successful defenses (all but two by KO). His streak and perfect record came to a stunning end when he lost a one-sided decision to Marco Antonio Barrera in 2001. Hamed fought once more and then retired. Here's a look at his run.

1995
KO 8 • Steve Robinson **(won WBO title)**

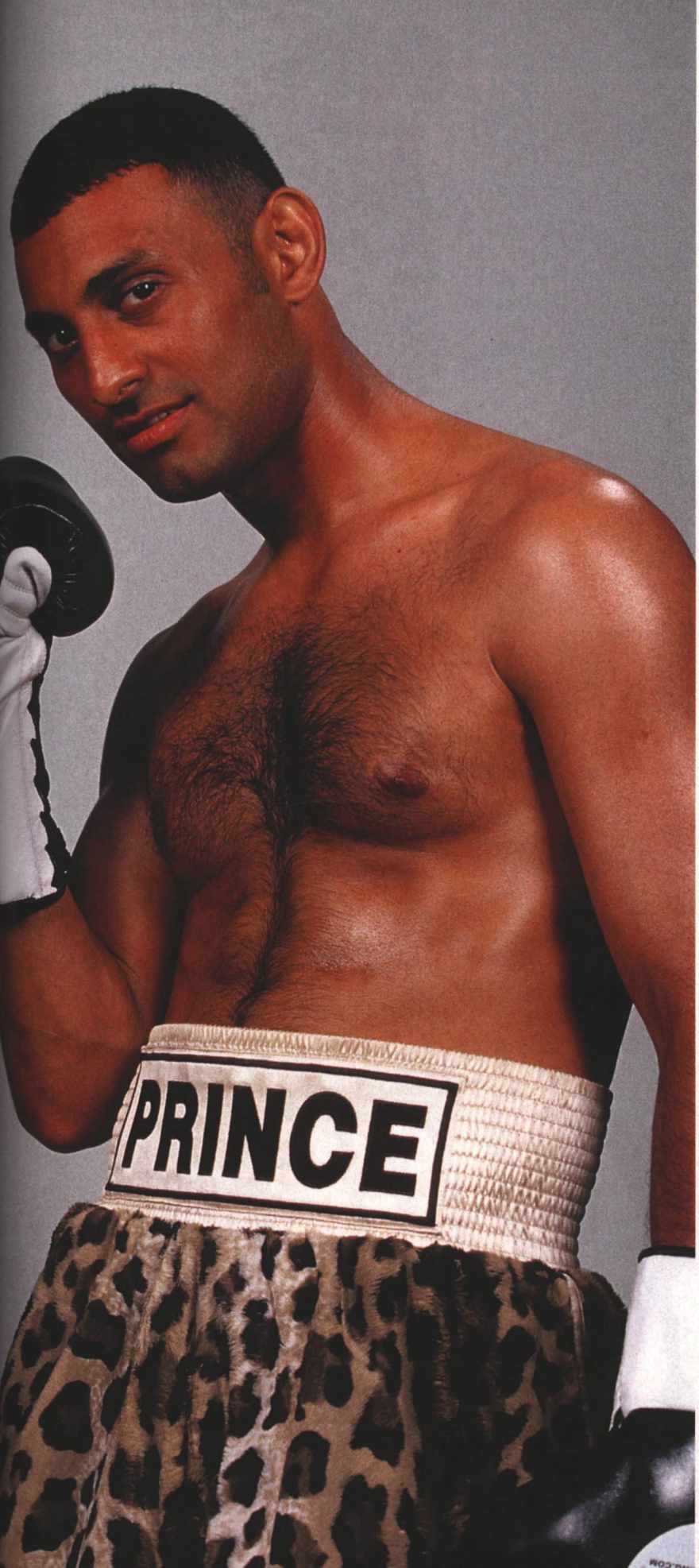
1996
KO 1 • Said Lawal
KO 2 • Daniel Alicea
KO 11 • Manuel Medina
KO 2 • Remigio Molina

1997
KO 8 • Tom Johnson **(won IBF title)**
KO 1 • Billy Hardy
KO 2 • Juan Cabrera
KO 7 • Jose Badillo
KO 4 • Kevin Kelley

1998
KO 7 • Wilfredo Vazquez
UD 12 • Wayne McCullough

1999
KO 11 • Paul Ingle
UD 12 • Cesar Soto **(won WBC title)**

2000
KO 4 • Vuyani Bungu
KO 4 • Augie Sanchez



Hamed had an attitude but backed it up in the ring.

play anymore. He almost said, 'If we're not playing by my rules, I don't want to play.'"

"Nobody has seen the best of Naz unless they've been in the gym with him," said Rhodes, shaking his head despondently. "When he retired, the kids that knew Naz were gutted because they realized the rest of the world wouldn't get to see what they had seen. He still had plenty to give.

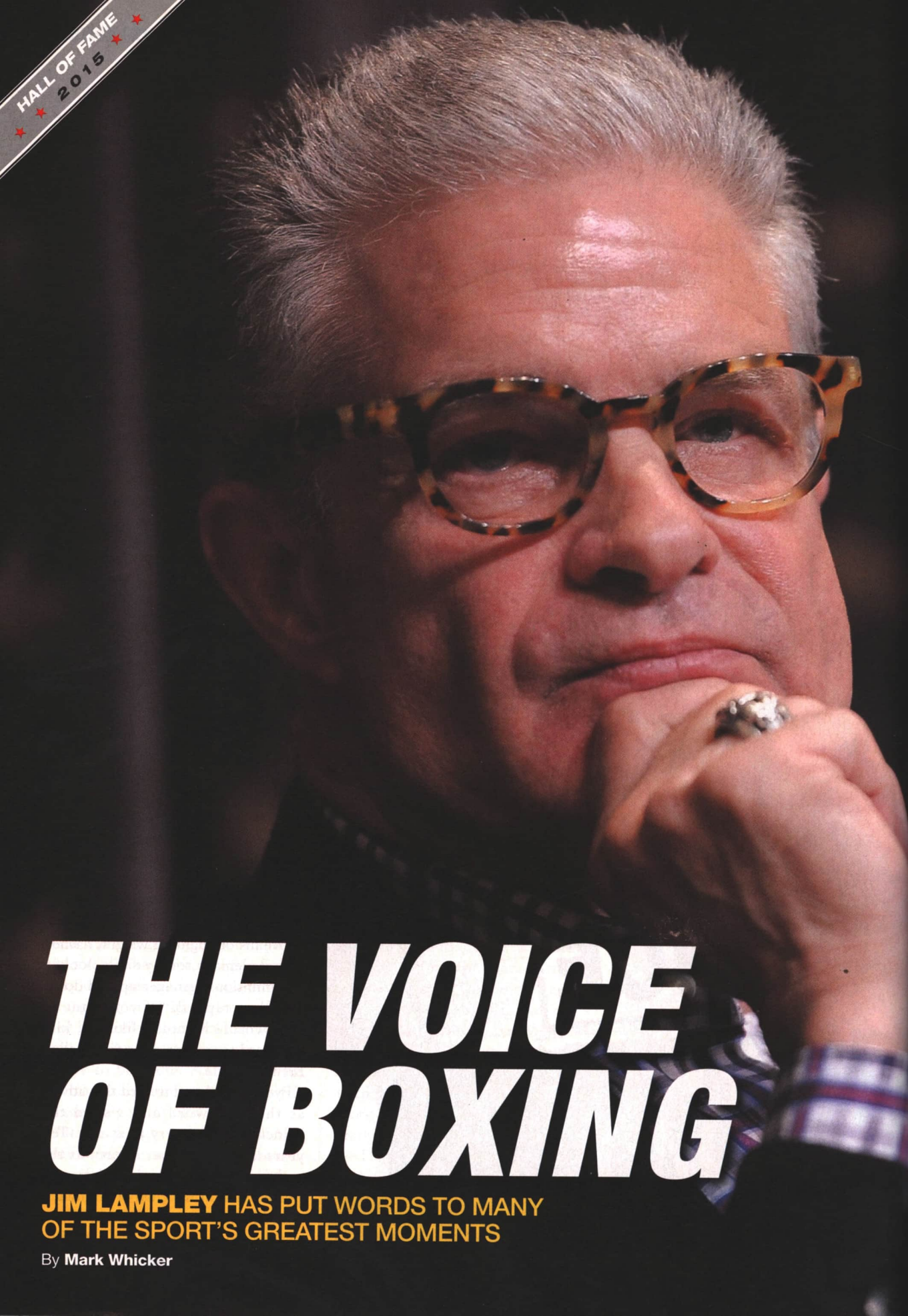
"But who knows what it's like having 35 million pounds in the bank? It takes a special person to be motivated enough to get up, train, diet and sacrifice when you don't need to."

Hamed was just 28 years old when he retired. Finally, this year, at the age of 41, he will be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. It's been a long time coming; more than just a stellar 36-1 record, his influence and impact can be seen in the ring entrances, interviews, trunks, corkscrew uppercuts and unguarded faces of those who carry the mantle in 2015. He made quite the impression.

It gets better, too. Take the moment a 14-year-old Muslim boy named Abdul-Bari Awad met a retired Hamed at a Sheffield mosque and said, "Naz, I want to be a champion like you." Hamed, though several stone (one stone equals 14 pounds) above his old fighting weight, flashed that trademark toothy smile, looked the ambitious teenager up and down and then replied, "If you want to be a world champion like me, kid, you need to go and see a man called Brendan Ingle."

Eyes wide, Awad treated this advice as the holy word and visited the Wincobank the very next day. Ten years later, he's better known as the undefeated Kid Galahad and is world-ranked and on the cusp of winning a world junior featherweight title.

"The Prince" may have gone but his legacy lives on.



THE VOICE OF BOXING

JIM LAMPLEY HAS PUT WORDS TO MANY OF THE SPORT'S GREATEST MOMENTS

By **Mark Whicker**

Jim Lampley is a boxing institution and still going strong.

Jim Lampley was raised on March Madness. As a student broadcaster at North Carolina, he watched NC State break UCLA's national championship streak in 1974.

Even today, a season-ending misstep by the Tar Heels will bring forth a rant from Lampley equal to the ones he delivers when the referee doesn't stop a fight in time.

But he encountered Madness at its most unhinged on March 13, 1999, in the middle of Madison Square Garden.

Lennox Lewis met Evander Holyfield that night. Both had brought to the ring every heavyweight belt in existence. At last, boxing's glory division would be back on the front sports page.

The fight itself was simple enough. Lewis was bigger, more dangerous, better. The only thing he didn't do was knock out Holyfield, although the fight was close to a stoppage a couple of times.

"Everybody wanted a unified heavyweight champion. Now we had one," Lampley said.

"And Michael Buffer came into the ring ..."

Somehow, Buffer kept a straight face as he read the judges' cards. Stanley Christodoulou scored the fight for Lewis but Eugenia Williams gave it to Holyfield and Larry O'Connell called it even. It was a draw.

New Yorkers who had seen everything looked beseechingly at the ceiling. Lampley looked straight ahead.

"Buffer had barely gotten it out of his mouth," Lampley said. "Ross Greenburg, our producer at the time, was in my earphones."

"Go for it," Greenburg said.

Immediately, Lampley cried, "Out of the cesspool of boxing comes the latest unmistakable stench ..."

Only boxing. Only HBO. And only Lampley, 66, who finally joins the International Boxing Hall of Fame this year.

He is this century's singular boxing voice, a child of the sport who has never tried to bridle his passion or dilute his opinion. He is working for a cable network that is tied closely to boxing but isn't afraid to administer tough love.

He is also a fully prepared broadcaster whose ability to process information and bring it into complete sentences is an unteachable skill.

"Jim was always our quarterback," said Larry Merchant, who flanked Lampley at ringside along with a procession of distinguished analysts like Ray Leonard, Emanuel Steward and George Foreman.

"It was amazing how he could come up with the most obscure facts and memories. He's one of those people who just remembers everything. I was merely along for the ride."

Lampley's devotion to boxing branches out into his accompanying HBO show, "The Fight Game." But it was hatched long ago and far away, and only brought to life by a series of fortunate events.

BLOOD AND SWEAT

Lampley grew up in Hendersonville, North Carolina. His father, Jim, had been a fighter pilot but he died of cancer when he was 35 and young Jim was 5.

Peggy Lampley did not want her son to forget his paternal ties. She made sure he did the things he would have done with his dad.

"One night she sat me down in front of the TV," Lampley said. "It was the 'Friday Night Fights.' That night Ray Robinson fought Bobo Olson. It became a ritual. I think she actually may have had a crush on Ray Robinson.

"I began to identify the guys I liked, like Dick Tiger, and the guys I didn't like, like Gene Fullmer. And then came the Rome Olympics and the fighter with a slave name. Cassius Marcellus Clay."

Clay either captivated or repelled. No other athlete had been his own bullhorn, had openly ridiculed his older, well-respected opponents and then beaten them. It was professional wrestling gone mainstream. But you couldn't see the twinkle in Clay's eye when you read his garish boasts in the newspaper. Lampley somehow could.

He also was growing up in the South, where change had to brave billy clubs and attack dogs before it became a way of life.

"I felt I was on the right side of the racial issue in a place where not everybody was," Lampley said. "[Clay] was the one who took on the establishment."

Peggy and Jim moved to Miami. Coincidentally, that's where Clay trained with Angelo Dundee. In 1964 Clay got a chance to meet champion Sonny Liston, who had destroyed Floyd Patterson twice. To Lampley, this was a harmonic convergence.

"I saved my money from the lawns I mowed and the other jobs I did because I knew what was coming," he said. "On the night of that fight, I got my mom to take me down to the Convention Center in Miami Beach and drop me off. Then she would drive around and pick me up. I was 14.

"I was one of the very few there who was rooting for Clay, as if Liston, this ex-con, was the good guy. And I had a pretty good seat. When Clay's glove cut Liston right below the eye, I could see the blood. I could see the sweat. I think the ticket was $100 or $150. The reason I don't know is that I don't still have the ticket. That was my only regret."

Clay humiliated Liston, who did not leave his stool when the sixth round ended. Peggy picked up Jim and later that night Jim climbed to the roof of the house and yelled to the neighborhood and to the nation beyond, "We shocked the world!"

THE TRAIL OF TYSON

At North Carolina, Lampley was young and polished and self-assured. And ABC Sports liked all of the above. He became a college football sideline reporter, then moved to Major League Baseball and soon achieved the top goal of any ambitious TV journalist – unavoidability. Lampley worked at ABC, CBS and NBC, gave out the Vince Lombardi Trophy, and was a major presence in 14 different Olympics, both summer and winter.

But no boxing. ABC was the only network that was interested and

MODERN

RIDDICK BOWE
ACTIVE: 1989-2008
RECORD: 43-1 (33 KOs)
BACKGROUND: "Big Daddy" was indeed big – 6 feet 5 inches, around 235 pounds at his best – and both skilled and athletic. He is best remembered for his three-fight series against Evander Holyfield, in which he went 2-1 (his only loss). The onetime undisputed heavyweight champion probably didn't realize his potential because of his training habits but certainly left his mark.

NASEEM HAMED
ACTIVE: 1992-2002
RECORD: 36-1 (31 KOs)
BACKGROUND: "Prince" was known for his ring entrances and strange style but he also was a terrific boxer and powerful puncher. He won the featherweight title in 1995 and successfully defended it 15 times, 13 by knockout, then vacated prior to his only loss, a unanimous decision against Marco Antonio Barrera in 2001. He fought once more and then retired, leaving a legacy as one of the better British fighters ever.

RAY MANCINI
ACTIVE: 1979-92
RECORD: 29-5 (23 KOs)
BACKGROUND: Mancini was one of the most popular fighters of his era. "Boom Boom" won his only title by stopping Arturo Frias in one round in 1982 and successfully defended four times before losing it to Livingstone Bramble in 1984. However, Mancini might be best known for delivering the blows that killed Duk Koo Kim and giving a brave, but futile effort in a KO loss to Alexis Arguello.

OLD-TIMER

YOKO GUSHIKEN
ACTIVE: 1974-81
RECORD: 23-1 (15 KOs)
BACKGROUND: Gushiken was a long-reigning junior flyweight titleholder and one of the best Japanese fighters of all time. He stopped Juan Antonio Guzman in his ninth fight to win the WBA 108-pound title in 1976 and made 13 successful defenses, finally losing his belt to Pedro Flores in 1981. The "Fierce Eagle" was only 25 but never fought again. He never fought outside Japan.

MASAO OHBA
ACTIVE: 1966-73
RECORD: 35-2-1 (16 KOs)
BACKGROUND: Ohba's is a tragic story. The Tokyo product was only 21 when he stopped Berkrerk Chartvanchai in the 13th round to win the WBA flyweight title in 1970. He successfully defended five times, the last against Chartchai Chionoi on Jan. 1, 1973. Three weeks later he was killed in a car accident in Tokyo, leaving us to wonder what he might've accomplished.

KEN OVERLIN
ACTIVE: 1931-44
RECORD: 135-19-9 (23 KOs)
BACKGROUND: Overlin wasn't much of a puncher but, oh, could he box. The Navy champion crammed 165 fights into his 13-plus-year career and was extremely difficult to beat. He won recognition as middleweight champ by the New York State Athletic Commission by upsetting Ceferino Garcia in 1940 and had two successful defenses. He also beat Ezzard Charles and Fred Apostoli.

NON-PARTICIPANT

STEVE SMOGER
POSITION: Referee
BACKGROUND: Smoger has worked more than 200 title fights in his three-decade career as one of the most respected third men in the ring.

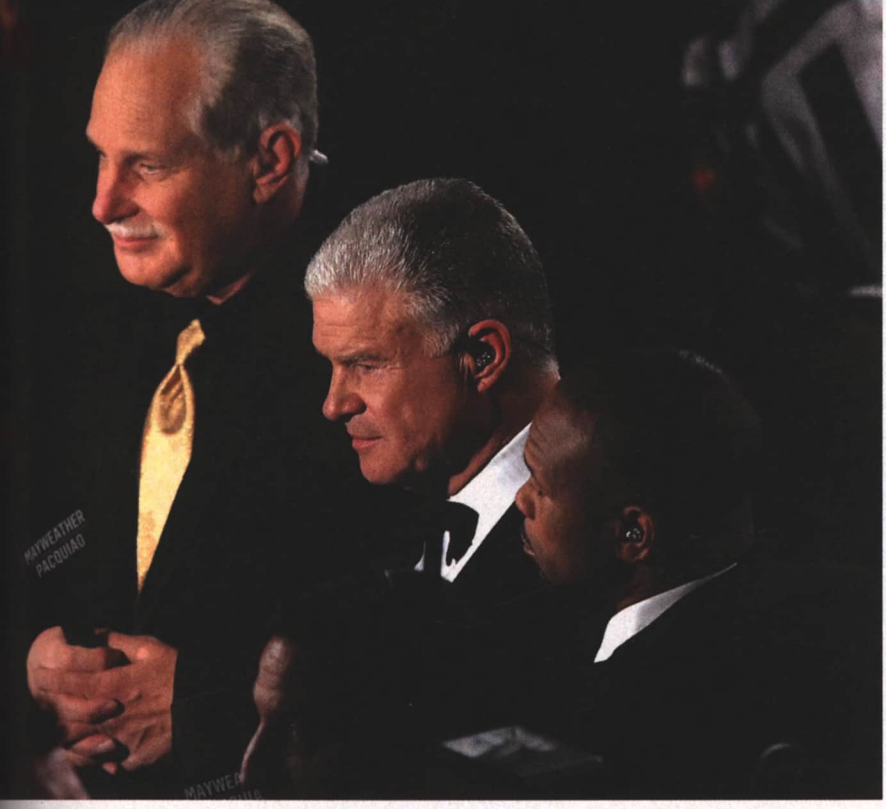
RAFAEL MENDOZA
POSITION: Manager
BACKGROUND: Mendoza has worked as a journalist and matchmaker but probably has made his biggest impact as a manager, advising 26 world champs.

JOHN F.X. CONDON
POSITION: Publicist
BACKGROUND: Condon became publicity director at Madison Square Garden in late 1950s and became president of MSG Boxing in 1981.

OBSERVER

JIM LAMPLEY
POSITION: Broadcaster
BACKGROUND: Lampley has been perhaps the most recognizable voice in boxing for ABC and then HBO over the past three-plus decades.

NIGEL COLLINS
POSTION: Editor/writer
BACKGROUND: The former two-time RING editor is also a respected author known for his integrity.



Lampley (center) was the lead broadcaster for Mayweather-Pacquiao.

ABC was Howard Cosell, at least in Cosell's mind.

"It's the one thing I wanted to do," Lampley said, "but if he ever knew anyone else wanted to horn in on a piece of action, there would be hell to pay. He did the fights by himself."

Finally, Cosell sat through 15 stupefying rounds between Larry Holmes and Randall "Tex" Cobb in 1982 and could stand no more. ABC moved Lampley to boxing, although he suspected the real motive was exile. "Dennis Swanson ran the department and he wanted me out," he said. "I think he felt boxing was an obscure place to put me."

It was nothing of the sort. A teenager named Mike Tyson was flattening everything that moved in upstate New York. Add the wisdom of trainer Cus D'Amato and the intellect of manager Jim Jacobs, and Team Tyson quickly became the best story in sports.

Lampley was there, in Glen Falls and Troy in upstate New York and the other places Tyson touched down. His analyst was Alex Wallau, a boxing expert who was fighting throat cancer.

"Alex and I lived near each other in Manhattan," Lampley said. "I'd go over to his apartment and we'd watch boxing videos. He'd tell me to look at the foot position when a southpaw fought a right-hander, how a guy would clinch and hit a guy in the ribs when the ref was on the other side. He taught me a whole new way to look at boxing."

ABC also had rights to Top Rank fighters like Holyfield and Pernell Whitaker. But when Lampley's contract ran out, he had a specific chair in mind. He told his agent, Arthur Kaminsky, "I want to do fights on HBO." His first one was Tyson vs Tony Tubbs, in 1988. Two years later he was in Tokyo when Tyson ran afoul of Buster Douglas.

"Jim's reporting instincts came through that night," Merchant said. "It's a simple thing but when it happened, he said, 'Mike Tyson has been knocked out.' Because that was the story. The story wasn't that Buster Douglas was the new champ. It was that Mike Tyson had been knocked out."

The Lampley-Foreman-Merchant show wasn't quite as rollicking as the original "Monday Night Football" cast but it had its moments. Merchant, the longtime sports columnist, and Foreman both held tightly to their opinions and Lampley would cast the deciding vote.

"Shane Mosley got the decision the second time he fought Oscar De La Hoya," Lampley said. "We were all talking to the camera afterward. None of us thought Mosley won the fight. But George started saying (promoter) Bob Arum had it fixed. Larry and I were having a hard time with the theory that Bob would go against his own fighter, which, in this case, was De La Hoya."

Lampley now works with Max Kellerman and former champ Roy Jones Jr. They don't disagree as sharply and Lampley appreciates the way they immerse themselves in the action.

"Roy is as perceptive as anyone I've seen," Lampley said. "Often he'll say things will happen before they do. We were doing Terence Crawford's fight against Yuriorkis Gamboa and Crawford went southpaw. Roy said he would start getting hit and he was right. Of course, he also won the fight."

Lampley saw Foreman shock Michael Moorer to become champion again, at 45. He saw Juan Manuel Marquez club Manny Pacquiao to the canvas, where Pacquiao stayed, face down, for several chilling seconds. He has seen death in the ring, including the night when Jimmy Garcia died at the hands of Gabriel Ruelas, but he also has seen life at its most vivid and elemental. It all goes back to a black-and-white TV set.

"They go in the ring, almost naked, with no teammates, no place to hide," Lampley said. "You see the layers get peeled off. And you see boxers from very poor backgrounds, from all over the world, fulfilling their dreams. There are no filters. It's very real."

It can be a cesspool or a cathedral. For nearly 30 years, the same resounding voice has navigated us through both. RING

RAY MANCINI
To read about Hall of Fame electee Ray Mancini, go to http://bit.ly/hall-of-fame-mancini.

KHAN AND BROOK WILL LOSE 'MONEY'

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. ISN'T LIKELY TO FACE THE U.K. STARS BECAUSE THEY ARE 'NOWHERE NEAR BIG ENOUGH FIGHTS'

By **Gareth A Davies**

Amir Khan and Kell Brook are only likely to face disappointment in their pursuit of Floyd Mayweather Jr., according to British promoter Eddie Hearn. It is only his view but I think the Matchroom Sport head of boxing is spot on. The greatest boxer of this era is going to stay out of reach, and particularly for Khan.

There are plenty over on this side of The Pond who think exactly that.

Given the money the Mayweather-Pacquiao event generated, boxing is a business, and in spite of the fallout over "shoulder-gate," it only looks destined to have a sequel. Down the line, Brook and Khan may well meet Pacquiao in a ring. But not Mayweather.

Brook, who is the holder of the only world welterweight title Mayweather does not hold – the International Boxing Federation strap – is being encouraged to look further afield by Hearn.

"I don't think Mayweather will fight Brook or Khan," Hearn told me. "He wants to keep that zero on his career record but he has just earned a massive amount of money and Khan and Brook are nowhere near big enough fights. There's still no bigger fight out there for Mayweather than another one with Pacquiao."

That's on the money – as we are now seeing.

Soon after the May 2 extravaganza, Khan claimed on a BBC radio

Amir Khan and Kell Brook might have to fight one another in the U.K. for their windfall.

station that Leonard Ellerbe, CEO of Mayweather Promotions, had approached him at the MGM Grand Garden Arena to "get it on" this year. The fighter's trainer and father, Floyd Mayweather Sr., from the arena itself, called the Briton "an easy opponent" for Floyd.

But not everyone agrees. Paulie Malignaggi believes Khan has the perfect style, youth and speed to give Mayweather problems. And Malignaggi is a smart analyst. So, too, Ricky Hatton.

Hatton had this to say: "I think Floyd would run a mile from Amir Khan, not because a fear factor but because styles make fights."

"Amir is boxing with a lot more discipline lately, he's in and out and he's not getting involved," Hatton continued. "I think that type of style will cause Floyd massive problems. There's maybe an argument that Amir is faster than Floyd. That type of style would give Floyd fits.

"If for some reason the fights with Floyd and Manny don't come off, Amir should be looking at a fight with Kell Brook because it's the biggest fight out there. We saw what George Groves and Carl Froch did at Wembley with 80,000 people. You can't tell me that Amir and Kell Brook couldn't get the same."

KLITSCHKO AND FURY

Over in Las Vegas at the megafight, I came across Wladimir Klitschko adviser Shelley Finkel and he had some interesting news on the prospect of the heavyweight champion fighting Tyson Fury in the U.K., most likely in September. Behind the scenes, it's heating up.

"There's a very good chance [of it taking place]," Finkel told me. "I'm sure we're going to fight him in September or October. There's a very good chance of Wembley Stadium or Manchester. It's that big a fight, we believe."

"Last week Wladimir fought at [Madison Square Garden] and nobody knows Bryant Jennings but it was the highest-rated HBO fight in three years. That gives you some idea. And Tyson is the big mouth from England."

Finkel was insistent that Klitschko intends to end Fury's goading. "That goes with the territory," he said. "Of course he'd love to shut him up once and for all. He would love to have a fight in the U.K. It's a great fight area and a big, big fan base."

Klitschko, of course, came very close to fighting David Haye in the U.K., with Chelsea Football Club's Stamford Bridge ground in London targeted as the venue at one time.

"The sequence has been worked out between the organizations for Wlad and the next one is the WBA," Finkel said. Fury is the No. 1 challenger for the WBA and WBO titles. "They have already put it on notice and we have already begun the negotiation period. If we don't get it done in the next 30 or 60 days, we'll be going to a purse bid. But we will go to purse bids and get it done."

Great news for the heavyweight division in Europe.

BENN AND WATSON

There was an emotional reunion in London for retired boxing "brothers" Nigel Benn and Michael Watson. The pair fought in London in 1989, Watson winning by a sixth-round technical knockout. It was Watson's finest moment in the ring.

Benn, 51, had flown into London from Australia, where he now lives with his family and works for charity, as a preacher and in marriage guidance.

The "Dark Destroyer," as he was once known, had wanted to be alongside Watson to wish him a happy 50th birthday. It was a week before more than 400 dinner guests – including Chris Eubank, Joe Calzaghe, David Haye and

TOP 15 (as of May 3)

1. CARL FROCH
2. AMIR KHAN
3. KELL BROOK
4. CARL FRAMPTON
5. JAMES DEGALE
6. TYSON FURY
7. SCOTT QUIGG
8. GEORGE GROVES
9. JAMIE MCDONNELL
10. MARTIN MURRAY

10-15: Billy Joe Saunders, Kid Galahad, Tony Bellew, Callum Smith, Kevin Mitchell.

Marvin Hagler – celebrated Watson's enduringly popular story.

Watson has been described by his neurosurgeon Peter Hamlyn as "a medical miracle," having survived catastrophic brain injuries in his contest with Eubank in September 1991. Meanwhile, Benn said he feels good.

"I'm 100 percent fitter now than when I boxed," he said. "The reason why I run so much is I'm not smoking, I'm not drinking, I'm not chasing anything. I'm so blessed."

Watson looked on. "We were the original middleweight boxing masters," Watson said.

"You were the master, I was just the warrior," countered Benn. "You made me who I am today. We needed each other. I needed that defeat. I cried my eyes out afterwards. I didn't just lose, I lost to a good-looking man. That's all I needed. I was going to try and make you ugly but it never worked."

"You can't hit what you can't see," retorted Watson.

Benn said he shared something special with Watson. "We're spiritual brothers and I've got a new life in Australia. Me and my wife go to church and we do marriage counseling. To me, that's more of a blessing than anything I've done [in the ring]. My life is only getting better and better. What I went through has allowed me to help other people save their marriages."

SCOTT QUIGG

Scott Quigg labeled himself "the world's most boring boxer" when I sat down and spoke with him recently. He means outside the ring. Not in it.

"I really don't ever go out. It's never interested me. I live a boring life," the junior featherweight contender told me. "From the age of 13, when I dropped out of school, I've learnt to deal with boredom. I sleep. I could sleep anywhere. The only things I watch are YouTube and boxing."

For the uninitiated, Quigg's parents went to the principal of his school and asked for him to be excluded at the age of 13 so he could study from home and focus purely on boxing. Have you ever heard of that in this day and age?

"I don't have friends. I don't socialize. My friends are my mum and my fiancee. Just my family. All I do is train, eat, sleep, train. I have mates from school and stuff but I hardly ever see them," he said. "When I have a fight, they come to our fish and chip shop and they buy a ticket. If they saw me in a pub, they'd say, 'What are you doing, you idiot?'"

"I don't drink at all. I've been drunk twice in my life and the last time was when I was 15. It must have been three pints of Stella and that's it. I didn't even like it. I thought, 'Why am I drinking this when I don't even like it?'

"I have to invest in my product – me. Going out and drinking is harming my product, my investment. My mum and dad paid for my first two trips to America (to train in gyms, including the Wild Card Boxing Club in Los Angeles). It's an investment. Now, every penny I make my mum and dad can have."

I was with Quigg and promoter Hearn recently when they revealed a check written out for £1.5 million ($2.2 million U.S.) live on Sky Sports News here in the U.K. and called on Cyclone Promotions, Carl Frampton's advisers and promoters, to take the contest this summer. It would be a blockbuster pay-per-view event.

Alongside Khan versus Brook, Quigg versus Frampton remains one of the most hotly anticipated all-British matchups and has boxing's chattering classes divided on who would take the spoils in that contest.

"I think it's got to happen this year," Quigg said. "Anything can happen; we could get hit by a bus. Every fight is crucial. He could get the Leo Santa Cruz fight and I believe Santa Cruz would beat him. If Santa Cruz beats him, that takes the gloss off our fight. We're both there now, the fight is hot. We're in a very good division and there are quality fighters around us. It only takes one punch to change everything."

Then Quigg is back to describing his routine. He keeps a painstaking diary of his food intake and training regime. "I'll go up to 132 at the most and I tend to take off a pound a week," he said. "I can tell you four years to this day exactly what I ate and exactly what I did."

"If it's not boxing I'm thinking about or researching, it's my diet, my food. You've got to be a complete package. You might have the greatest technique but if your food plan is wrong, and you crash the weight, it doesn't matter. It's no good doing it for four rounds."

Quigg sounds more like an accountant studying the figures than a man pounding the bags with leather. "I've got diaries going back five years," he said. "If you're ever feeling a bit tired or not as sharp as usual, you can look back at what you've done and find the reasons why."

"Even if I'm on holiday, I'll take it with me. I went to Dubai after my last fight and I wrote down everything that I ate. Even though it was mainly all garbage, I still wrote it down."

Now that's dedication, I tell him. He counters: "They say if you do something you love, you'll never have to work a day in your life. Even though it's a cheesy saying, that's me. I wake up with a smile on my face every morning even if I've got to get up at half past 5, swim, then run six miles and do 12 rounds of sparring."

"It's all I have. I just save all my money. I still live at home. But I'm living the dream."

To some, it may sound like a route to becoming the most boring world champion in history. But admirable, nonetheless. Cheers.

Gareth A Davies is boxing correspondent for The Telegraph, London.

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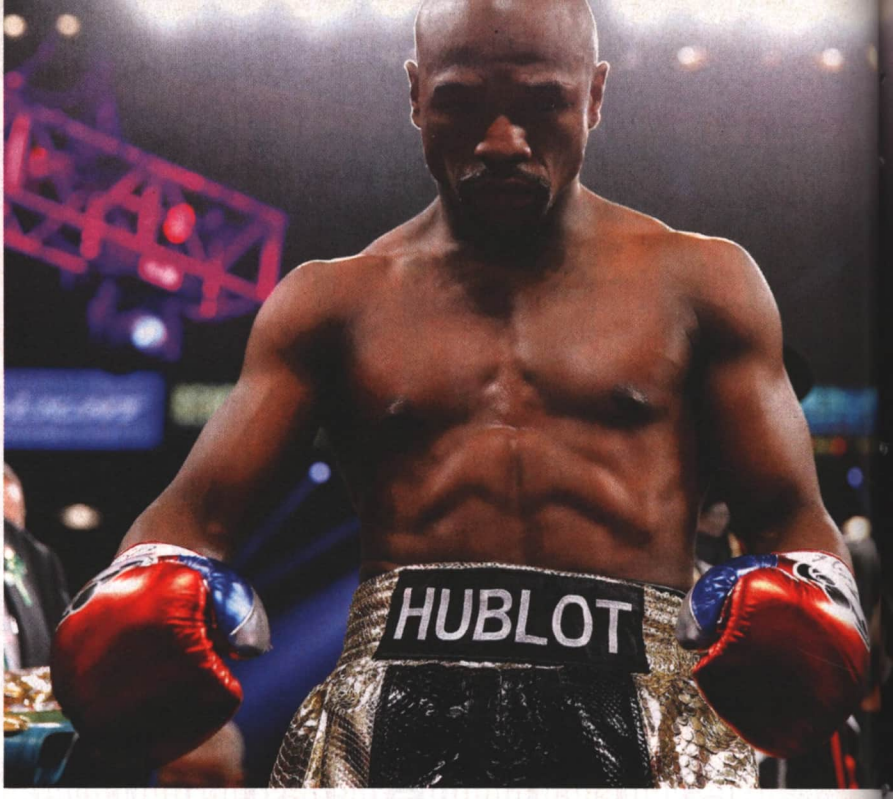
BEST OF DOUGIE'S MAILBAG

EXCERPTS FROM THE **RINGTV.COM** EDITOR'S POPULAR COLUMN

By **Doug Fischer**



Since 2001, RingTV.com Editor Doug Fischer has held an ongoing dialog – which occasionally becomes heated debate – with boxing fans from around the world in "Dougie's Mailbag."

The following excerpts are from the May 4, 2015, edition of the Monday mailbag.

WESAM, from Houston, was disappointed with the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Manny Pacquiao showdown, not because Pacquiao didn't win, but rather because Mayweather bested the Filipino star so handily that the unbeaten American didn't have to dig deep and really show his great talent. Wesam asked Fischer if the fight proved anything. He also asked Fischer to share his thoughts on the aftermath of the event and what he thinks is next for both fighters.

DOUGIE'S REPLY: Did the fight prove anything? Yeah, it proved Mayweather is a better boxer than Pacquiao and it arguably makes him the best boxer of his era (if by "his era" you mean the last 15 years).

My thoughts on the aftermath? I'm just glad it's over. For the next few days (maybe weeks) I'm going to have to listen to the mainstream sports media rip Mayweather, Pacquiao, the fight and the event to shreds while boxing purists and Floyd fans obnoxiously gloat and vehemently defend their hero on Twitter but I'm officially over it and ready to move on.

What's next for each fighter? I think Mayweather fights once or twice more and then hangs up his gloves. I don't expect to see him in with a threat. Maybe Danny Garcia or Shawn Porter. I don't care who he fights. I just want him to exit the sport.

I think Pacquiao will fight for as long as his promoter Bob Arum tells him to or as long as Freddie Roach is physically able to train him and work his corner. I can see him dropping down to 140 pounds and taking on Terence Crawford after a comeback gimme against Jessie Vargas or someone like that. Pacquiao-Crawford is a good matchup (for "Bud"). I think Pacquiao should hang up his gloves now.

Edward, from the U.K., said he was "compelled" to watch the first fight between Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran after sitting through Mayweather-Pacquiao, which he described as a "dud of a superfight." "I had to be reminded of what it should look like when two guys considered the best of the best face off for all the marbles," said Edward, who added that Leonard and Duran had unbelievable physical talent and craft but also knew they had a responsibility to the fans.

DOUGIE'S REPLY: I hear ya, Edward. I'm glad I was introduced to boxing in the 1970s and became a hardcore fan in the '80s. Back then, when the top two fighters in their division squared off or when the best boxers pound-for-pound (even though that term wasn't tossed around as much) faced each other, the public was treated to more than a huge media event – they often witnessed a breathtaking FIGHT.

Muhammad Ali vs. Joe Frazier I and III – RING Fight of the Year for 1971 and '75.

Ray Leonard vs. Thomas Hearns – RING Fight of the Year for 1981. (As heated as Leonard-Duran I was for 15 rounds, it was beat out for 1980 Fight of the Year honors – and rightfully so – by Matthew Saad Muhammad's 14th-round KO of Yaqui Lopez.)

Marvin Hagler vs. Hearns – RING Fight of the Year for 1985.

Hagler vs. Leonard – RING Fight of the Year for 1987.

I think the last time two elite fighters who were recognized as the best in their division got together to produce a Fight of the Year was either Evander Holyfield-Riddick

Doug Fischer said boxing has survived many debacles. It will also survive Mayweather-Pacquiao.

Bowe I (1992), Michael Carbajal vs. Humberto Gonzalez I (1993) or Erik Morales-Marco Antonio Barrera I and III (2000 and 2004). However, I'm not sure the Mexican showdown counts because Barrera was rebuilding after high-profile losses (to Junior Jones and Pacquiao, respectively) coming into both bouts against his arch rival "El Terrible."

I wonder if I would've bothered following the sport at all had I come of age in the last two decades. The mega-pay-per-view events that have occurred during my tenure as a boxing writer were all duds – Oscar De La Hoya vs. Felix Trinidad, Lennox Lewis vs. Mike Tyson, De La Hoya-Mayweather, Mayweather-Canelo Alvarez and Mayweather-Pacquiao.

ANDREW, from the U.K., thought Mayweather-Pacquiao was closer than the Sky Sports commentators viewed the fight. Andrew says he even scored it a bit closer than the official judges because there were, in his words, "uneventful rounds" that he "couldn't split (between the fighters) because not a lot happened. "I don't agree with scoring a round for landing one or two punches, holding and dancing around. It's as if Mayweather automatically gets the round if it's close." Andrew, who likened Mayweather's style to Olympic boxing, says the mega-event will turn away the casual fans that it attracted and ultimately hurt the professional sport. He hopes Mayweather retires soon and vowed not to ever pay for another fight involving "TBE."

DOUGIE'S REPLY: Cheer up Andrew. Mayweather knows the longer he hangs around the sport the more chance there is of him losing. And he knows that one loss can smash his claim of being TBE. He doesn't want that so I believe him when he says he'll fight one more time and call it quits (even though I wouldn't be shocked if he went for a farewell bout just to make it an even 50-0).

I'm hearing a lot of talk about how Mayweather-Pacquiao will hurt boxing or forever keep casual fans away from it because so many people were disappointed in the uneventful nature of the bout. I acknowledge that there's a lot of negative talk about the fight in the mainstream media right now (particularly among sports radio and sports anchors of network news affiliates) but there will also be a lot of big-time headlines on the revenue the event pulled in. Whether it's positive or negative, there's a lot of boxing discourse going on right now in the media and social media. The general public is reminded that boxing still exists and still has the power to attract the power brokers and glitterati of the world. Trust me, some casual fans who caught a glimpse of Vasyl Lomachenko on Saturday will remember his name and tune in to watch the Ukrainian southpaw fight on HBO in the near future. What they see on that night might very well hook some of them into the sport. And some of those folks might develop into hardcore fans if they happen to catch quality fights on HBO, Sky Sports and other networks.

Bottom line: Boxing can't die. Since I've been involved with the sport, it has survived the Tyson-Holyfield "Bite Fight" (you talk about a negative mainstream reaction – forget about it!), the controversy of Lewis-Holyfield I, the De La Hoya-Trinidad dud, the Lewis-Tyson scuffle at their kick-off presser (and Tyson's subsequent tirade to the media), the grossly one-sided nature of Lewis-Tyson, the De La Hoya-Mayweather dud and so on.

Anyway, I agree that Mayweather automatically gets rounds in which nothing happens. There's always going to be that one star in boxing who gets extra credit for his "ring generalship" while any other boxer who boxes like that – see Bernard Hopkins and Cory Spinks vs. Jermain Taylor or Lamont Peterson vs Danny Garcia – LOSES uneventful rounds to their aggressive-but-ineffective opponents. It is what it is.

I also agree that professional boxing shouldn't look like Olympic boxing (at least post-1988 Olympic boxing). RING

MIKE REED

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT HOPES TO EMULATE TERENCE CRAWFORD

By **Keith Idec**

Mike Reed has been trained by his father, Michael "Buck" Pinson, since he took up boxing.

Mike Reed looked around a jam-packed CenturyLink Center in Omaha, Nebraska, admiring the scene Terence Crawford created in his hometown.

It is exactly the type of atmosphere Reed hopes to produce in his native Washington, D.C., during his own rise to stardom. The undefeated junior welterweight realizes he has a lot more to accomplish in the ring before he can come close to duplicating Crawford's success, but his trip to Omaha last year to fight on one of Crawford's undercards provided even more motivation to continue honing his skills in the gym.

"You look at Terence Crawford and he sells out in Omaha," Reed said. "They love Terence there. They support him 100 percent. That's what I want to build here. It motivated me. I saw that Terence has this confidence about him. I said, 'This is how I want it to be for me. This is how I want my fans to react to me.' They want to support me here, so I just keep grinding to give them something to support."

The 22-year-old Reed is 14-0 during his two-year pro career, including eight knockouts. He has gone 4-0 since he signed a promotional contract with Bob Arum's Top Rank, Inc. last fall, a move Reed made because the company historically has developed prospects into contenders at the proper pace and keeps them busy.

"The biggest downfall for a fighter in the game of boxing is inactivity," Reed said. "I'm learning a lot. Every fight I'm learning more and more. I have to keep learning and I have to motivate myself to always do better than I did in my last fight."

The sturdy southpaw isn't a knockout artist but his hand- and

THE ESSENTIALS

MIKE REED

Age: 22

Weight class: Junior welterweight

Height: 5 feet 7 inches

Stance: Southpaw

Hometown: Waldorf, Maryland

Record: 14-0 (8 KOs)

Biggest strengths: Has been very active (14 fights in 24 months), which has given him plenty of opportunities to improve and remain sharp. ★ **Athleticism:** He moves well and his footwork enables him to throw punches from an array of angles. ★ Tries to provide action, which has helped him develop a loyal local following in the Washington, D.C., area.

Biggest question marks: ★ **Power:** Still learning to sit down on his punches as a professional. ★ **Level of opposition:** Like most young prospects, hasn't been tested yet. Needs to show more to prove he is ready to make the tricky transition from prospect to contender.

foot-speed, combined with his high punch output, have made him an entertaining prospect to watch. He is evolving under the watchful eye of his father, Michael "Buck" Pinson, who has trained Reed since he first set foot in a gym as a 10-year-old.

Reed lost his first four amateur bouts but Pinson wouldn't allow him to quit.

"He sat me down and said, 'I told you this was going to be hard,'" Reed said. "He saw what I didn't see, my potential to be great, and that's what I'm working at right now."

The resident of Waldorf, Maryland, finished his 10-year amateur career with a 95-14 record. It included a national Golden Gloves championship at 141 pounds in 2011.

He worked without a promoter prior to signing with Top Rank and now hopes the partnership leads to the type of success the laid-back Crawford has achieved.

And that's a lofty goal. Crawford has won world titles at lightweight and junior welterweight, was named Fighter of the Year by the Boxing Writers Association of America for 2014 and is the latest member of THE RING's pound-for-pound list.

"He has showed a lot of that boxer-puncher ability that you like to see," said Carl Moretti, Top Rank's vice president of boxing operations, of Reed. "I think the potential is there. He has to be challenged to really see what he has but everything that we had heard and what we've seen so far is positive. So we're looking to build on that."

Reed expects to take the step up to 10-round fights against more imposing opposition soon.

"You weed out a lot of fighters when they're trying to go from being prospects to contenders," Reed said. "I want to make that jump when the time comes. I want to show that I am one of the hot prospects and hot contenders in boxing at junior welterweight." RING

Keith Idec covers boxing for The Record, of Woodland Park, N.J. He can be reached on Twitter @Idecboxing.

3 MORE TO WATCH

DIEGO DE LA HOYA
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT

A cousin of Oscar De La Hoya, this 20-year-old native of Mexicali, Mexico, is off to a strong start (10-0, 6 KOs) in a pro career that began in September 2013. At 5-foot-6, he is tall for a 122-pounder and has above-average power. He has pleased trainer Joel Diaz with his progress over the past year, most recently when he gutted out an eight-round unanimous-decision win against rugged Mexican southpaw Ramiro Robles (12-3-1, 7 KOs) on May 7 in Los Angeles.

KONSTANTIN PONOMAREV
WELTERWEIGHT

This unbeaten Russian hadn't received much exposure until he thoroughly outboxed then-undefeated Canadian Mikael Zewski (26-1, 20 KOs) the night before the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Manny Pacquiao fight in Las Vegas. This 22-year-old is more boxer than puncher (28-0, 13 KOs), but is skillful and on the verge of becoming a legitimate 147-pound contender.

KENNETH SIMS JR.
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT

A Chicago native known for his quick feet and technical skill, Sims gave Pacquiao plenty of trouble while serving as one of two primary sparring partners for the Filipino's fight against Mayweather. Sims, 22, who won seven national titles during an amateur career that included 200-plus fights, improved to 6-0 (2 KOs) by beating Puerto Rico's Luis Rodriguez (3-3, 2 KOs) on April 25 at Madison Square Garden.

Laila Ali proved skeptics wrong by becoming one of the best female boxers ever.

HALL OF FAME: CLASS OF 2015

LAILA ALI LEADS THE SECOND GROUP OF INDUCTEES

By **Thomas Gerbasi**

Sue Fox created the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame in 2014, when the former boxer and her team inducted seven of the sport's finest – and underappreciated – competitors and contributors. The first induction ceremony in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, had significant star power, led by former rivals Christy Martin and Lucia Rijker, but there is no shortage of high-profile names for the Class of 2015, which gets its place in the sun on July 11.

"The second class of the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame will bring the number of inductees to 15," Fox said. "And the amazing thing is that we have just begun to scratch the surface of the rich history and the deserving individuals who have made – and continue to make – contributions to the sport of women's boxing, in and out of the ring. In addition to honoring and celebrating these women, it is also hoped that the story of their struggles and accomplishments will become better known to the boxing community."

Meet the IWBHF Class of 2015.

LAILA ALI

Active: 1999-2007
Record: 24-0 (21 KOs)
Background: There was no shortage of skeptics when the daughter of Muhammad Ali entered the prize ring but by the time Laila Ali's eight-year career was over, she had carved out her own niche as one of the best female fighters – maybe even the best – to ever lace on the gloves. A world champion at 168 pounds from 2002 to 2007, Ali had power, speed and charisma, which made her a crossover star. And while her competition wasn't always the greatest and a superfight with Ann Wolfe never materialized, there is no questioning that "She Bee Stingin'" was an elite prizefighter.

JEANNINE GARSIDE

Active: 2004-2010
Record: 10-3-1 (4 KOs)
Background: Before Jelena Mrdjenovich, the First Lady of Canadian boxing was Jeannine Garside. A world champion at 122 and 126 pounds, Garside achieved something most would deem impossible in the world of the sweeter science: Only one of her 14 opponents had a losing record. All three of her losses came in 2008, the only down year in a dominating career. The British Columbia native retired on top, handing Ina Menzer her first loss in 27 fights in 2010 – in Menzer's home country of Germany, no less – to exit the sport with three world featherweight title belts.

DEIRDRE GOGARTY

Active: 1991-1998
Record: 16-5-2 (14 KOs)
Background: Deirdre Gogarty never made the cover of Sports

Illustrated but it's safe to say that Christy Martin would not have received that honor if not for Gogarty, who battled with Martin for six heated rounds on the Mike Tyson-Frank Bruno II pay-per-view card in 1996. The bout, perhaps the most important in female boxing history, introduced the sport to the masses. Gogarty lost the fight but the Irishwoman went on to win a featherweight world title by beating Hall of Famer Bonnie Canino in 1997. And her impact is even more acutely felt back home, where she was a significant influence on current Irish boxing star Katie Taylor.

PHYLLIS KUGLER

Active: 1956-57
Record: 1-1-1
Background: Much like 2014 inductees Barbara Buttrick and Jo-Ann Hagen, Indiana's Phyllis Kugler was boxing at a time – in the 1950s – when the sport was far from accepted. It was treated like a novelty act, which made Kugler's insistence on going against the grain even more admirable. Kugler, who passed away in March of 2014, claimed to have more than 50 bouts but the only ones on record saw her go 1-1-1 against the aforementioned Buttrick (0-1-1) and Hagen (1-0).

SPARKLE LEE

Active: 1998-present
Background: A glance at the career of retired NYPD officer Sparkle Lee reveals a number of firsts: first woman to referee a New York Golden Gloves, first female referee appointed to the New York State Athletic Commission, first woman to referee a fight in New Jersey. And that's just to name a few of Lee's accomplishments. She remains a top referee on the East Coast scene and overseas.

TERRI MOSS

Active: 2002-2007
Record: 9-9 (3 KOs)
Background: As noted in last month's RING profile, Terri Moss' pro boxing record will never scare anyone but the former strawweight world champion's impact can't really be measured in wins and losses. In fact, the Georgian – who didn't start boxing until she was in her mid-30s – might be making more of a mark in the sport now as a promoter, documentary filmmaker and respected coach.

LAURA SERRANO

Active: 1994-2012
Record: 17-5-3 (6 KOs)
Background: One of Mexico's female fighting pioneers, Laura Serrano made her pro debut against Christy Martin in 1994 yet managed to fight the future Hall of Famer to a draw. That's probably all you need to know about how good "La Poeta del Ring" was. In her second fight, she stopped fellow inductee Deirdre Gogarty to win a world title. Serrano didn't receive the popular acclaim of some of her peers but those peers know that Serrano was an elite competitor.

ANN WOLFE

Active: 1998-2006
Record: 24-1 (16 KOs)
Background: Ann Wolfe survived a harrowing childhood and early adulthood to become a menacingly intense competitor and perhaps the hardest puncher in women's boxing history. It wouldn't be accurate to say that she found peace in boxing but she did find an outlet in the ring, which was bad news for her opponents. A world champion at 154, 168 and 175 pounds, Wolfe – owner of THE RING's greatest female knockout of all time, over Vonda Ward – never landed her dream fight against Laila Ali. That was about the only downside of a career that continues with the Texan as a respected, and still intense, coach.

WOMEN'S POUND FOR POUND

1. CECILIA BRAEKHUS
Norway • 27-0 (7 KOs)
Welterweight

2. JELENA MRDJENOVICH
Canada • 35-9-1 (19 KOS)
Featherweight

3. DELFINE PERSOON
Belgium • 32-1 (15 KOs)
Lightweight

4. JACKIE NAVA
Mexico • 32-4-3 (14 KOs)
Junior featherweight

5. DIANA PRAZAK
Australia • 13-3 (9 KOs)
Junior lightweight

6. JESSICA CHAVEZ
Mexico • 22-4-3 (4 KOs)
Junior flyweight

7. LAYLA MCCARTER
U.S. • 36-13-5 (8 KOs)
Lightweight

8. AVA KNIGHT
U.S. • 13-2-3 (5 KOs)
Flyweight

9. IBETH ZAMORA SILVA
Mexico • 22-5 (8 KOs)
Junior flyweight

10. ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS
Argentina • 21-1 (10 KOs)
Junior welterweight

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BY NORM FRAUENHEIM

Lucas Matthysse (left) and Ruslan Provodnikov staged a memorable show on April 18 in Verona, N.Y.

LUCAS MATTHYSSE MD 12 RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV

Date: April 18
Site: Turning Stone Resort and Casino, Verona, N.Y.
Division: Junior welterweight
Weights: Matthysse 139 pounds, Provodnikov 139.5
RING ratings (before fight): Matthysse No. 1, Provodnikov No. 3
Network: HBO

OK, Floyd Mayweather Jr.- Manny Pacquiao was a bust, a critical failure when the business needed acclaim. It'll be the public's whipping boy, more of a so-called Slight than Fight, until the next Flop of the Century.

Too bad.

Unfortunate because that frustrated crowd just saw the wrong fight. Strip away the hype, the pay-per-view excesses, exorbitant prices and excuses. Replace all of that and more with Lucas Matthysse-Ruslan Provodnikov. Their fight was simple. It was violent. It was everything it was expected to be. Imagine that. But it does happen and did it ever just a couple of weeks before the colossal failure delivered by Mayweather-Pacquiao.

Matthysse won a majority decision. But as a fight, it was a unanimous winner, full of the dramatic elements absent in the May 2 money grab.

"I fight for an idea, for myself, for the people and to make history," Provodnikov said before a 12-round test of will. "I don't do it for the fame or the money."

It is important to remember, indeed emphasize, that Provodnikov was the loser of a decision that could have easily gone his way. Judges Glenn Feldman and John McKaie both scored it 115-113 for Matthysse (37-3, 34 KOs). On Don Ackerman's card, it was a draw, 114-114.

In the end, Matthysse's 3-inch advantage in reach might have been enough for a narrow edge on those subjective scorecards. But who knows? If Provodnikov had not been badly bloodied with a cut over his right eye in the second round, he, instead of his powerful Argentine foe, might have prevailed.

But Provodnikov didn't complain then or later. His tone was the same when he arrived in Las Vegas and talked to the media army that had invaded the MGM Grand for Mayweather-Pacquiao.

"I would like a rematch as soon as possible," said Provodnikov, whose wounds had already begun to heal.

There was no late news about a shoulder injury. There were only congratulations.

Matthysse, who found himself on the ropes in the third round and again in the fourth, praised Provodnikov's power and persistence. The Siberian, he said, hurt him several times. Provodnikov countered in kind, grace for grace.

"To me, he was better," said Provodnikov (24-4, 17 KOs). "He was the better man in the ring and, you know, it was a close fight but he won and I hope everybody enjoyed it."

Provodnikov even apologized to his fans in the immediate aftermath of what ranks as the Fight of Year through the first four months of 2015. If Mayweather had apologized for not knocking out or even knocking down Pacquiao, maybe it would have alleviated outrage at a bout that cost average fans $100 just for the chance to yawn through the pay-per-view telecast.

Instead of an apology, however, there was just an ongoing exchange of allegations and insults about who should have disclosed what and when. Matthysse and Provodnikov didn't have to talk. They expressed themselves through the way they fought. It was clear, definitive and, sadly, missed by too many.

GARY RUSSELL JR. TKO 4 NO. 1 JHONNY GONZALEZ

March 28, Las Vegas (Showtime)

Gary Russell Jr. has more than power and speed. He's resilient.

It was that resilience that distinguished him in what was an unmistakable validation of his world-class credentials and perhaps the biggest upset in 2015.

After a loss by decision to Vasyl Lomachenko, it was easy to dismiss Russell as just another guy, a forgettable featherweight. Too easy. Russell (26-1, 15 KOs) re-stamped himself as a threat by overwhelming one of the most dangerous featherweights of all.

Jhonny Gonzalez (57-9, 48 KOs), who knocked out Abner Mares in one round two years ago to win the WBC 126-pound title, had no counter for Russell's speed. In the third, the left-handed Russell dropped Gonzalez with a left. Early in the fourth, he dropped him again with a combo and then finished it at 37 seconds of the round with a right hand that re-introduced him to the championship mix.

NO. 2 KELL BROOK TKO 4 JO JO DAN

March 28, Sheffield, U.K. (Sky Sports, Showtime)

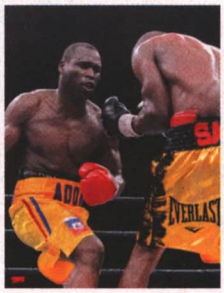
A winding scar on Kell Brook's left thigh reminds him how lucky he is. Lucky to be alive.

Brook's career wasn't on his mind last September when he says an assailant with a machete attacked him on the Spanish island of Tenerife about three weeks after he beat Shawn Porter.

Forget footwork. Brook (34-0, 23 KOs), who faced Frankie Gavin on May 30, just hoped he could walk again. He can. And he did, displaying old footwork in a stoppage of Romanian Jo Jo Dan (34-3, 18 KOs) to retain his IBF welterweight title about seven months after suffering a 12-inch wound that required 60 stitches.

"I was there thinking, 'I'm going to die,'" he told U.K. media.

Yet, he healed, regained conditioning and overwhelmed Dan, who was down twice in the second round and twice in the fourth. Before the fifth, Dan did what Brook didn't. He quit.



C ADONIS STEVENSON UD 12 SAKIO BIKA

April 4, Quebec City (CBS)

RING and WBC light heavyweight champ Adonis Stevenson left no doubt against Sakio Bika but there was only more uncertainty about whether he'd ever fight Sergey Kovalev.

Stevenson's 116-110, 115-110, 115-111 victory over Bika was impressive but it didn't do much to further his career. Now that Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Manny Pacquiao is history, Stevenson-Kovalev is among the fights fans want to see most. They waited once. They'll wait again.

Stevenson's power is dangerous enough to be a threat, even against Kovalev. It knocked down Bika (32-7-3, 21 KOs) twice, first in the sixth round and again in the ninth.

"I'm Superman," Stevenson (26-1, 21 KOs) said. "Superman is in the building, baby."

But not even a Superman can make the Stevenson-Kovalev fight. Ten days after Stevenson's victory in Al Haymon's PBC debut on CBS, Kovalev promoter Kathy Duva withdrew from a purse bid. A key factor: Kovalev's exclusive contract with HBO.

C DANNY GARCIA MD 12 NO. 2 LAMONT PETERSON

April 11, Brooklyn, N.Y. (NBC)

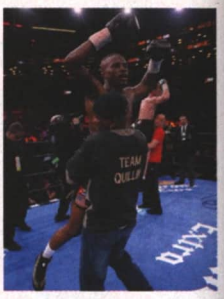
There was a time when it looked as if Danny Garcia was on the fast track to being Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s B-side. Remember that guy? He upset Amir Khan. He stunned Lucas Matthysse.

Where has he been? Hard to say.

The Garcia of 2012 and 2013 has yet to re-appear. In 2014, he escaped Puerto Rico with a gift over Mauricio Herrera and then beat unknown Rod Salka. The guess was that 2015 would be different. But questions linger after a majority decision over Lamont Peterson (33-3-1, 17 KOs), who was demolished by Matthysse.

Garcia (30-0, 17 KOs) scored early, appeared to wilt late and yet eked out a narrow win – 114-114 on one card and 115-113 on two.

"I found a way, just like I always do," he said after a 142-pound bout with no title at stake and nothing definitive in the result.



NO. 2 PETER QUILLIN D 12 NO. 6 ANDY LEE

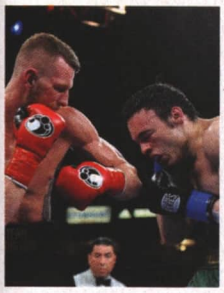
April 11, Brooklyn, N.Y. (NBC)

Anybody for a rematch?

Andy Lee-Peter Quillin II appears inevitable after a draw further complicated by Quillin's failure to make weight for what would have been a middleweight title bout.

The WBO's version of the title was off the table when Quillin initially weighed 161.4 pounds and then was 160.6 in his second trip to the scale. Sure enough, a bigger Quillin (30-0-1, 22 KOs) was stronger early, knocking down Lee (34-2-1, 24 KOs) in the first round and again in the third.

But there were signs that he was dehydrated. Lee was in trouble after the second knockdown but Quillin couldn't finish him. If anything, Quillin appeared to tire. Lee capitalized, knocking him down in the seventh but was also unable to end a fight that went to the cards – 113-113, 113-112 for Quillin and 113-112 for Lee.



NO. 8 ANDRZEJ FONFARA TKO 9 JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.

April 18, Carson, Calif. (Showtime)

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. should listen to his dad. Turns out, father knows best. At least, he did when he talked about his son's chances against Andrzej Fonfara.

Chavez Sr., fearing Fonfara's advantage in size and experience at light heavyweight, didn't like the fight.

When it was over, he must have hated it, especially when his son was pelted with cups and stale beer from StubHub fans expressing contempt for a legendary name but with none of the legendary determination to continue.

The junior Chavez (48-2-1, 32 KOs), THE RING's No. 9 super middleweight before the 172-pound bout, suffered his first knockdown and was bloodied and bruised when he quit after enduring a punishing nine rounds at the accurate hands of the stronger Fonfara (27-3, 16 KOs).

"I want a rematch," said Chavez, who also must have had the common sense knocked out of him.

TERENCE CRAWFORD TKO 6 NO. 8 THOMAS DULORME

April 18, Arlington, Texas (HBO)

If the dull Mayweather-Pacquiao fight was a sign that it's time for a new generation, promoters might not have to search long to find the new face of the game.

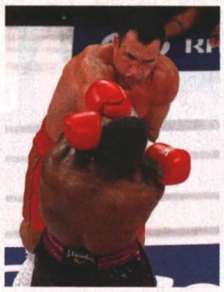
It is beginning to look like Terence Crawford.

Crawford (26-0, 18 KOs), THE RING's former lightweight champion, took another step toward stardom in claiming a major title in his first fight at 140 pounds.

Thomas Dulorme (22-2, 14 KOs) was aggressive early but never had a chance against Crawford, who measured him early and overwhelmed him in the sixth with three knockdowns for a TKO at 1:51 of the round.

"I thought I had a hell of a performance," said Crawford, who landed a combo for the first knockdown, another combo for the second and a head-to-body shot for the third.

Hell for Dulorme, but heaven for Crawford and promoter Bob Arum.



C WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO UD 12 NO. 5 BRYANT JENNINGS

April 25, New York (HBO)

Some empires don't last as long as Wladimir Klitschko's reign. As expected, it continued against Bryant Jennings. But there was a difference this time.

Klitschko won but not without talk about cracks in the foundation. Despite a 116-111, 118-109, 116-111 decision over Jennings (19-1, 10 KOs), he knew he wasn't as dominating as the cards indicated.

"I could have done better," said Klitschko (64-3, 53 KOs) after finishing strongly for another victory, his 18th consecutive successful defense. That leaves him one behind Larry Holmes on the all-time list.

Better is what Klitschko has in mind after his first bout in the U.S. since 2008. Opportunities await him. Deontay Wilder, an old sparring partner, is the most intriguing one.

"I think he's getting older," said Wilder, who might be in line to test that opinion after a projected Klitschko-Tyson Fury bout.

LEO SANTA CRUZ UD 10 JOSE CAYETANO

May 2, Las Vegas (HBO/Showtime)

Leo Santa Cruz has a smile that makes moms want to hug him. He has a work ethic that makes fans want to cheer for him. But there's a problem, a missing piece that is creating doubt about his predicted stardom.

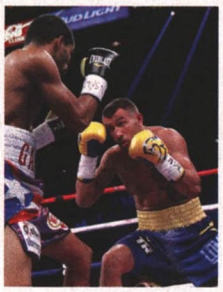
Where's the proof?

It wasn't there against featherweight Jose Cayetano (17-4, 8 KOs), who was as game as he is unknown. Santa Cruz (30-0-1, 17 KOs) won easily but his victory – 100-90 on all three cards – fell short of an expected KO.

"I did what I could," said Santa Cruz, who is still waiting to prove himself against Guillermo Rigondeaux or Carl Frampton or Abner Mares.

There's talk about Santa Cruz-Mares later this year in Los Angeles.

"That's the fight I want." said Mares, who added that there is growing impatience with Santa Cruz's string of unknown foes. "His fans are becoming my fans."



NO. 2 VASYL LOMACHENKO KO 9 GAMALIER RODRIGUEZ

May 2, Las Vegas (HBO/Showtime)

Top Rank signed Vasyl Lomachenko to a five-year contract two days before he appeared on the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Manny Pacquiao undercard.

It was an investment in the future, which 48 hours later looked like a very good bet when Lomachenko (4-1, 2 KOs) displayed versatility and power in a ninth-round knockout of Puerto Rican featherweight Gamalier Rodriguez (25-3-3, 17 KOs).

Lomachenko, a two-time Olympic gold medalist from Ukraine, took control in the third with precise combinations, leaving Rodriguez helpless and with only low blows as a counter measure.

Lomachenko, looking as arrogant as he is accomplished, dropped Rodriguez with a body shot in the seventh. At 50 seconds into the ninth, he finished him with a right uppercut.

What's next? Long-term, Top Rank's Bob Arum foresees a big-money bout against lightweight prospect Felix Verdejo. Short-term, Nicholas Walters is a possibility.

COMING UP

PREDICTIONS ARE MADE BY RING STAFF MEMBERS MICHAEL ROSENTHAL, DOUG FISCHER AND BRIAN HARTY

JUNE

MIGUEL COTTO VS. DANIEL GEALE

Date: June 6
Location: Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Division: Middleweight (for Cotto's RING and WBC titles)
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Significance: Cotto (39-4, 32 KOs) re-energized his career with victories over Delvin Rodriguez and Sergio Martinez but hasn't fought in a year. Geale (31-3, 16 KOs) is solid but shouldn't be a serious threat to the future Hall of Famer.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Cotto KO 8; Fischer – Cotto UD; Harty – Cotto KO 8

DAVID LEMIEUX VS. HASSAN N'DAM

Date: June 19
Location: Montreal
Division: Middleweight (for vacant IBF title)
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Significance: Lemieux (33-2, 31 KOs) has KO'd seven of eight opponents since losing consecutive fights in 2011, including Gabriel Rosado in December. N'Dam should be a challenge. He looked sharp in outpointing Curtis Stevens in October.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Lemieux KO 9; Fischer – Lemieux MD; Harty – Lemieux SD

ANDRE WARD VS. PAUL SMITH

Date: June 20
Location: Oakland, Calif.
Division: Light heavyweights (172-pound catchweight)
TV: BET
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★
Also fighting: Karim Mayfield vs. Ray Robinson, welterweights
Significance: Ward (27-0, 14 KOs) hasn't fought since November 2013 because of promotional and injury issues. He's being eased back into boxing against Smith (35-5, 20 KOs), who has lost consecutive decisions to Arthur Abraham.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Ward KO 9; Fischer – Ward KO 10; Harty – Ward UD

JUNE 4 – LA Fight Club, Los Angeles (Fox Sports 1)
JUNE 12 – Marco Huck vs. Krzsztof Glowacki, cruiserweights (for Huck's WBO title), Chicago (Spike TV).
JUNE 13 – Felix Verdejo vs. Ivan Najera, lightweights, New York (HBO)
JUNE 20 – Adrien Broner vs. TBA, junior welterweights, Cincinnati (NBC Sports Net)
JUNE 26 – Tony Luis vs. Guillermo Sanchez, lightweights, Niagara Falls, N.Y. (CBS Sports Net)
JUNE 27 – Tim Bradley vs. Jessie Vargas, welterweights, Carson, Calif. (HBO)
JUNE 27 – Amnat Ruenroeng vs. Johnriel Casimero, flyweights (for Ruenroeng's IBF title), Bangkok, Thailand

JULY

JULY 11 – Premier Boxing Champions (ESPN)
JULY 11 – Mauricio Herrera vs. Hank Lundy, junior welterweights, Los Angeles (HBO Latino)
JULY 18 – Arthur Abraham vs. Robert Stieglitz, super middleweights (for Abraham's WBO title), Halle Westfalen, Germany

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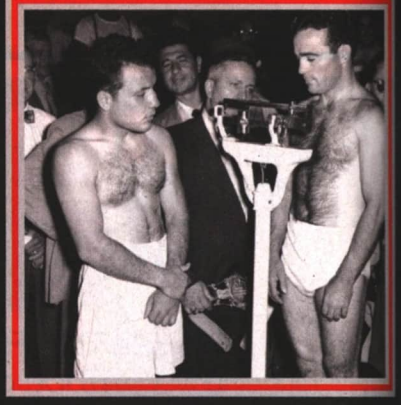

ANOTHER SHOULDER INJURY

Manny Pacquiao's shoulder injury certainly wasn't the only one in an important title fight. Another famous shoulder injury occurred on June 16, 1949, in Detroit, where Marcel Cerdan (above right) defended his middleweight title against Jake LaMotta. The great Frenchman dislocated his left shoulder when LaMotta wrestled him to the canvas in the first round of their scheduled 15-rounder. Cerdan fought on bravely, trying to hold off the aggressive "Bronx Bull" with one hand, but he had to give up his title after the ninth round. Cerdan never fought again. He was en route to the U.S. for a rematch with LaMotta on Oct. 27, 1949, when the plane on which he was a passenger crashed in the Azores, a chain of Portuguese islands in the Atlantic. No one survived. Cerdan (111-4, 65 knockouts) was only 33 and still at least near the peak of his abilities. He had stopped Hall of Famer Tony Zale to win the NBA title only a year earlier. Of course, we don't know what else he would've accomplished but the native of Algeria is arguably the greatest French boxer who ever lived and one of the best period.

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